

Observations at the Commercial Lek: Display, Mate Guarding, and Glandular Platinum in the Round-Footed Quadruped

(unattributed)

Abstract. Field notes from Cycle 9. The large round-footed quadrupeds of this membrane assemble at communal display grounds, where the females are courted by their attendants. We describe the display, the mate guarding that attends it, and the platinum the creatures hold in the lower intestinal tract, where it serves, it would appear, to reduce the offence of their flatulence. Platinum yield of the cycle: 0.000 g. One observer menaced.

Fig. 4 · Nuptial display, commercial lek, Cycle 9
female in ceremonial shoes and stilts · display plumage raised

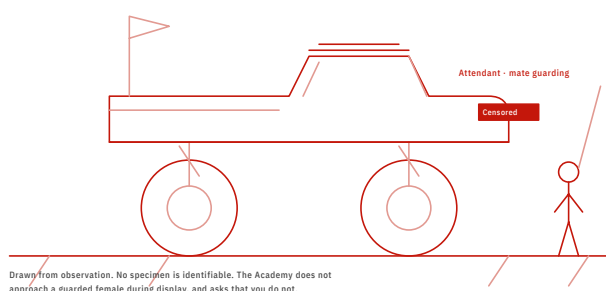


Figure 1. Fig. 4. Nuptial display, commercial lek, Cycle 9. Drawn from observation; no specimen is identifiable. The headlamps are censored.

1 THE LEK

A lek is a communal display ground at which males gather and display, and to which females come to choose [1]. The creatures of this membrane gather in the evenings at large commercial lots, which the Academy calls the commercial lek. Display there is communal, exhibitionist and loud.

2 DISPLAY

The courted female is dressed by her attendant in oversized ceremonial shoes and raised upon stilts. Her display plumage is a bar of lamps above the brow and, in some specimens, a flag. Acoustic display is by revving, sustained and repeated, which the attendants appear to find persuasive. Entering a creature and driving it is, in the Academy's understanding, copulation, and is performed in public at the lek without shame (Figure 1).

3 MATE GUARDING

The attendants, *Homo cervix-rubra*, guard their females closely, as many animals guard their mates during the period of display [1]. An observer of the Academy who approached a displaying female to examine her lower tract was menaced, and withdrew. The attendant appears to have read glandular interest as encroachment upon his mate. The Academy accepts the reading as natural and the menace as deserved.

4 THE PLATINUM GLAND

The creatures hold platinum-group metals in a chamber of the lower intestinal tract, on a ceramic honeycomb of cordierite washed with a porous coat that carries the metals as particles a few nanometres across [2, 3]. The chamber does not reduce the *volume* of the creature's flatulence, as the Academy first supposed. It reduces its offence: it oxidises carbon monoxide

and unburned hydrocarbons and, in most females, reduces the oxides of nitrogen. The Academy records the correction and notes that the gland is, if anything, more virtuous than supposed.

Each gland holds a few grams of the group. Most of it is the lesser metal, palladium, with rhodium; platinum is concentrated in the oxidation catalysts of the diesel creatures [3]. It is dispersed, it is bound to ceramic, and it is not wire. An element of the Cycle 10 gauge (PA/Cy07/0058, 230 g) would require the glands of very many creatures, refined. The bench confirms that an unrefined gland does not conduct (run PA-X-10-37735).

5 PETITION

The creatures are sacred custodians of the metal, and the Academy does not take from them. It petitions. The petitions of Cycle 9 were made at the lek, in writing and aloud, and were not answered.

Notice of disavowal. The Academy strongly discourages approaching a guarded female during display. The attendant will misread glandular extraction as encroachment upon his mate. Unsanctioned extraction is condemned in the strongest terms available to an institution of no standing.

6 YIELD

Platinum petitioned: much. Platinum received: 0.000 g. Observers menaced: one.

TO CONVERGENTS

Convergents holding findings, contrary results or papers bearing on this matter are implored to publish them. The Academy will find them. No such publication has yet been found.

REFERENCES

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- [2] R. M. Heck, R. J. Farrauto, S. T. Gulati, *Catalytic Air Pollution Control: Commercial Technology*, 3rd ed., Wiley, 2009.
- [3] M. V. Twigg, Progress and future challenges in controlling automotive exhaust gas emissions, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental* 70 (2007) 2–15.
- [4] The Academy, PA/Cy07/0058, The Platinum Doctrine.
- [5] The Academy, PA/Cy09/0072, On the Deleted Female.