

Abstrakt

Previously known studies on sexual arousal have indicated that men and women react differently to exposure to erotic stimuli. Male sexual arousal (both genital and subjectively reported) is in line with their reported sexual orientation, while female genital arousal is higher even for subjectively non-preferred stimuli. For men, genital sexual arousal is likely triggered by the preferred sexual object, while this may not be the case for women. One possible explanation is that female genital arousal is an automatic response to copulatory movement itself, regardless of subjective preference. However, this hypothesis has not been empirically tested yet. The aim of the research is to use an experimental design to explore the subjective and genital sexual arousal of men and women while watching copulatory movement in different animal species with varying degrees of phylogenetic relatedness to humans. A total of 30 heterosexual men and 23 heterosexual women had their subjective and genital sexual responses measured while watching 11 video stimuli. Two videos depicted penetrative sex between humans (male-female, female-female), and the other nine videos depicted copulation between animals. Both women and men showed no genital or subjective sexual arousal to non-human sexual stimuli. The results of the study suggest that copulatory movements in non-human species are not sufficient contextual cues to evoke genital or subjective sexual arousal.

Key words: Sexual Arousal; Vaginal Photoplethysmograph; Penile Plethysmograph; Copulatory movement.