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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Intraspecific variation in male mating strategies in an African ground squirrel (*Xerus inauris*)

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Abstract

Male mating strategies respond to female availability such that variation in resources that affect spatial distribution can also alter cost-benefit tradeoffs within a population. In arid-adapted species, rainfall alters reproduction, behavior, morphology, and population density such that populations differing in resource availability may also differ in successful reproductive strategies. Here, we compare two populations of Cape ground squirrels (*Xerus inauris*), a sub-Saharan species with year-round breeding and intense mating competition. Unlike most mammals where males resort to aggressive interactions over females, male *X. inauris* are tolerant of one another, relying instead on other nonaggressive pre- and postcopulatory strategies to determine

