

The dewlap of the ox and the comb of the cock are similar defensive weapons. Active weapons of attack, on the other hand, are the antlers of the stag, the tusks of the boar, the spur of the cock, and the hugely developed pair of jaws in the male stag-beetle; all are instruments employed by the males in the struggle for the females, for annihilating or chasing away their rivals.

In the cases just mentioned, it is the bodily "struggle to the death" which determines the origin of the secondary sexual characters. But, besides these mortal struggles, there are other important competitions in sexual selection, which no less influence the structure of the rivals. These consist principally in the fact that the courting sex tries to please the other by external finery, by beauty of form, or by a melodious voice. Darwin thinks that the beautiful voices of singing birds have principally originated in this way. Many male birds carry on a regular musical contest when they contend for the possession of the females. It is known of several singing birds, that in the breeding season the males assemble in numbers round the females, and let their songs resound before them, and that then the females choose the singers who best please them, for their mates. Among other songsters, individual males pour out their songs in the loneliness of the forest in order to attract the females, and the latter follow the most attractive calls. A similar musical contest, though certainly less melodious, takes place among crickets and grasshoppers. The male cricket has on its belly two instruments like drums, and produces with these the sharp chirping notes which the ancient Greeks curiously enough thought beautiful music. Male grasshoppers, partly by using their hind-legs like the bow of a violin against