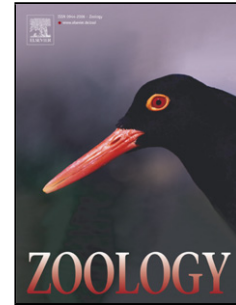


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**Getting ready for mating: the importance of male touching as an accelerator of ovarian growth in a caridean shrimp**

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Highlights

- Male presence accelerated ovarian growth in juvenile females of a caridean shrimp.
- Female presence delayed ovarian growth in juvenile females.
- Physical contact among shrimps was necessary for the observed results.
- Tactile but not visual cues may be involved.
- Short-range chemical cues but not those released distantly may be involved.

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