

# Female Dragonflies Play Dead to Get Away From Males

Same.

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Have you ever ghosted on someone? You know how it goes — you start chatting someone up and they seem great at first but then red flags start popping up left and right. While ghosting isn't a good solution and you should actually learn the art of [curving, instead](#), we get it. Sometimes falling off the face of the earth seems like the only option. Honestly, some of us have gone to GREAT lengths to get away from someone undesirable, but we're willing to bet you've never taken it as far as female dragonflies do. They are literally ghosting queens.

***Paragraph One: The writer catches the reader's attention by asking a question and then relating the experience of the article to what may be the***

***reader's experience. They are also bringing up an experience that is common in everyday culture and everyone can relate to.***

According to *New Scientist*, researcher Rassim Khelifa from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, discovered just how far female dragonflies will go to get away from a male dragonfly who's getting a little too flirty. It turns out these queens will literally play dead and fall from the sky in order to get away from the buzz of an unwanted dude. We get it.

**P2: The author introduces a study (or evidence) and she does it with humor in order to catch and keep the reader's attention.**

Apparently, Khelifa was out collecting dragonfly larvae in the Swiss Alps, as one does, when he noticed lady flies plummeting from the skies and laying motionless on the ground where they land. In 27 out of the 31 cases of falling female flies, Khelifa noted they were free falling to avoid a male suitor.

**P3: The author gives us more of the scientific background of the article, explaining the study to which she's referring.**

While we tend to dodge pesky dudes just because (you don't need a reason not to talk to someone), it turns out there's actually a biological reason female dragonflies will literally play dead to keep suitors away. *New Scientist* explains female moorland hawk dragonflies, which Khelifa was observing, aren't guarded by their male mates when laying eggs, which therefore makes them vulnerable to harassment. Since one sexual encounter can fertilize all their eggs, and another encounter could damage some of those eggs, it's important for female dragonflies to avoid these unwanted males.

**P4: the author gives us much more in-depth information about the study. And again, she does it with a sense of humor. She uses a casual, but informational tone.**

This isn't the first time dragonflies have been known to do THE MOST to avoid suitors, but it is the first time moorland hawkers have been seen practicing the behavior. While it's pretty funny that these flies are playing dead to get away from guys, they're not doing it just for fun, much like human women don't clap back at or run away from harassers with joy.

**P5: The author explains the study in a way that helps readers understand why it's important to them.**

“Females may only behave in this way if male harassment is intense,” Adolfo Cordero-Rivera at the University of Vigo in Spain, said, according to *New Scientist*.

Not even dragonflies are safe.

**Conclusion: The author quotes an expert and makes a little joke.**