

{rokbox title=|Main behavioral observations :: Image: Authors|
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[Observational evidence of egg guarding in wild European squid](#)

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Abstract: It is accepted that loliginids, like other squid, deposit their eggs in crevices on the seabed and then abandon them. In this work, we present observational evidence of egg guarding behavior in wild European squid, *Loligo vulgaris*. While monitoring a squid spawning crevice at night in Spain, a large mass of squid eggs was located and filmed 17 times during 42 days, until hatching. A male and a female of *L. vulgaris* were filmed in front of the crevice. The same male was filmed guarding the eggs on consecutive days. In the presence of the divers, male and female alternated their approaches to the crevice repeatedly touching and flushing the egg clusters. This guarding behavior differs from the reproductive habits assumed for the European squid and could represent the first evidence of egg guarding by a male in cephalopods.

Keywords: cephalopods, egg care, egg masses, *Loligo vulgaris*, squid