

# Plate Beat: L4 male Psyched For First Date



A *C. elegans* fourth larval-stage male has expressed excitement, along with some trepidation, about his first ever date to take place in ~8 hours. “I’m totally stoked!” said the XØ nematode, who is rapidly approaching the juvenile-to-adult transition. “Still, I don’t want to seem over eager or desperate. That can really be a turn off to the ladies if you know what I mean”, he added. “Still, I really do hope that all my tail rays morph in time”, the blunt-tailed adolescent stated. When questioned about phenotypic preferences, the single-armed-gonad worm was emphatic about being “open to all types”. “I mean, in my (plate) culture, we tend to have arranged matings. So you kind of ‘get what you get and you don’t crawl up the side of the plate’ or anything”. “Plus”, added the L4, “I’m pretty much into all sizes and body types. I mean like Sma, Lon, Dpy... it’s all good to me!”. “Actually”, continued the pubescent worm, “it would be pretty cool to hook (including sensillum) up with a Muv, I mean, I wonder what that’s all about, right?” As of press time, morphogenesis of the gubernacular erector muscle was taking longer than expected based on temperature, although the early-molt-stage male was apparently “totally cool with that”. Currently unknown to the L4/adult; he will have significant competition for the lone barely-gravid hermaphrodite in the form of 11 other young males.