

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2017 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Emilio A. Arroyo

Project Number

J2301

Project Title

Ant Talk

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

By conducting an experiment using natural sugar and artificial sugar substitutes, determine whether ants have the ability to communicate the quality of a food source through the use of trial pheromones.

Methods/Materials

Conduct tests using natural sugar solutions and artificial sweetener solutions, whereby ants are provided with several foraging choices. The ants are counted in 15-minute intervals, in each plastic cup containing the solutions, to determne the ants' preference of sweeteners.

Results

The data from Tests 1A and 1B showed that ants preferred the natural sugars the most, and Test 2 showed that ants preferred the mid-level sugar concentration solution.

Conclusions/Discussion

The data supported the hypothesis where it was predicted that ants would prefer the natural sugars over the artificial sugar substitutes.

Summary Statement

Research and experimentation to determine whether trail pheromones can communicate the quality of a food source.

Help Received

My father taught me how to obtain scientific research papers, and reviewed my report and display board.