



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2014 PROJECT SUMMARY**

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<b>Project Title</b> A Cactus' Worst Enemy: Cochineal	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p><b>Objectives/Goals</b> The objective is to find an efficient mixture that can protect cacti from being plagued by Wild Grana Cochineal for the longest amount of time.</p> <p><b>Methods/Materials</b> I washed different cacti every 15 days using only the mixture corresponding to the cactus. The mixtures used were: a mix of different chilies, alcohol and soap, garlic extract/ juice, oregano tea, and Spectracide. I also used different sized brushes to facilitate the cleaning of the cacti.</p> <p><b>Results</b> The alcohol and liquid soap mixture protected the cacti against the Wild Grana Cochineal for the longest amount of time, along with the oregano tea. The least effective were the chili mix and garlic extract/ juice.</p> <p><b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> The alcohol and liquid soap were the most effective mixtures at keeping the cacti from being plagued by the cochineal.</p>	
<b>Summary Statement</b> Find what mixture protects cacti from cochineal.	
<b>Help Received</b> Mother helped wash cacti, short interview with Professor Gregory Walker	