

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2005 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Jake P. Pellegrini

Project Number

J1429

Project Title

How Does Cigarette Smoke Affect Crickets?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

My objective is to determine if different amounts of nicotine in cigarettes have an effect on crickets' chirping. I believe the cigarettes with the greatest amount of nicotine will cause the greatest increase in chirping because nicotine is a stimulant.

Methods/Materials

I prepared four containers holding one female and four male crickets in each container. Each group of crickets was exposed to unfiltered, filtered, or ultralight cigarette smoke (using a milk jug smoke machine) for one minute. A control group was not exposed to smoke. Cricket chirps were recorded for one minute before and after exposure to smoke. Four tests were conducted on consecutive days.

Results

Crickets exposed to the most nicotine (unfiltered cigarette smoke) increased their chirping the most (by 64% on average), while crickets exposed to less nicotine (filtered cigarettes) increased chirping by 45% on average. Crickets exposed to the least amount of nicotine (ultralight cigarettes) increased 28% on average, while the control crickets did not change their chirping amount.

Conclusions/Discussion

My conclusion is that the more nicotine contained in a cigarette, the greater the affect on crickets' chirping because nicotine stimulates the crickets.

Summary Statement

My project is to examine the effect of different levels of nicotine on crickets' chirping.

Help Received

Mom lit the cigarettes and typed abstract; Used smoke machine from OLQA Science teacher, Mrs. Westhart; Dad took me to get crickets.