CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2015 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
S1519

Project Title
What Is the Effect of Dollar Bill Value on the Amount of Microbes Found Present on the Bill?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
The purpose of this project was to investigate any possible correlation between dollar bill denomination and the amount of microbes found on the bill.

Methods/Materials
Four common bill denominations: $1, $5, $10, $20, were tested for average microbes found per a bill type. I hypothesized that if the dollar value of a bill is related to the amount of germs found present, then the higher the dollar value of the bills, $1, $5, $10, $20, the lesser amount of germs are found present. To test this, five bills of each denomination were acquired, and swabbed on both sides, and cultured. The average CFU for each denomination was compared and determined the results.

Results
My results show that there is a correlation between bill value and the amount of microbes found present on the bill, but found greatest to least in the order of $20, $1, $5, $10 respectfully.

Conclusions/Discussion
This evidence shows that $20 bills were the most contaminated, and $10 bills the least contaminated. This is due to $20 bills being transferred at a higher rate

Summary Statement
An Investigation of any possible correlation between dollar bill denomination and the amount of microbes found on the bill.

Help Received
none