SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

The Ant Bus

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ABSTRACT

I chose to test if a mixture of shampoo and other bathroom products would cause an ant colony to move away from an area. Ants use their sense of smell to follow trails and find food.

QUESTION

Can a mixture of shampoo and bathroom products make ants avoid an area?

RESEARCH

Ants are social insects, which means they work together in big groups called colonies. One of the most important ways ants communicate with each other is through scent trails. These scent trails help ants find food and navigate to and from their nests. Strong scents such as shampoos can disrupt ant scent trails.

HYPOTHESIS

I think ants will not like the smell of shampoo and will move away from it.

MATERIALS

- Men's Suave Shampoo 1 Tbls
- Aveeno Kids Shampoo- 1 Tbls
- L'oreal Shampoo- 1Tbls
- Hand sanitizer- 1 Tbls
- Hair Mousse- 1 Tbls
- Method hand soap- 1 Tbls
- Water- 2 cups
- Large Container

PROCEDURES

1. First, find an ant colony in an area that may cause a problem, such as a playground.
2. Next, create a solution out of shampoos and bathroom products.
3. Then, pour the solution into the ant colony.
4. Last, repeat as needed.

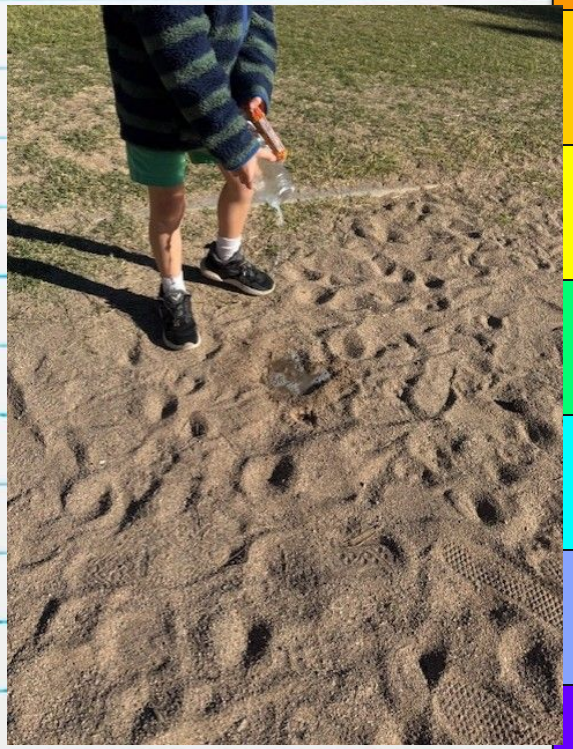
Data and Results

1. First, I noticed a problem with an ant colony under our school playground. The ants were biting me and causing issues at recess.
2. Next, I created solution using shampoos and bathroom products to see if I can get rid of the ants.
3. Then, I put my solution in a spray bottle and tried spraying the colony to move them.
4. I checked back the next day to see if the ants had moved.
5. It didn't work.
6. I made another batch of solution and this time I poured the solution on to the colony.
7. I checked back the next day and the ants had moved 5ft away.
8. I made another batch of solution.
9. I poured the solution on the ant colony again and they moved another 3ft away.

DATA & RESULTS

Trials	Way Solution Was Used	Ant Movement (Feet)
Trial 1	Spraying Solution	0 Ft
Trial 2	Pouring Solution	5 ft
Trial 3	Pouring Solution	3 ft

PICTURES



PICTURES

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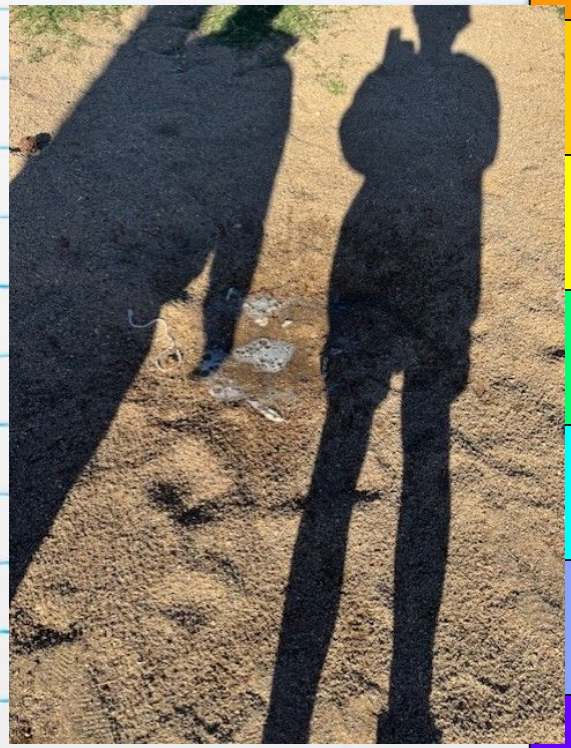

CONCLUSION

I wanted to find out if ants would avoid a smell like shampoo and move away from a certain area. I learned that ants use their sense of smell to follow trails, called scent trails, to find food and get back to their nests. When I added my shampoo solution to one area, the ants seemed to avoid it and didn't follow the scent trail back.

This shows that strong smells, like shampoo, can confuse ants and make them avoid that area. Ants need to smell the right things to find food, and if a new smell gets in the way, they might not know where to go!

Acknowledgments (Optional)

- Mom and Dad for providing the bathroom products.
- Students in my class for helping me take pictures.
- My teacher for helping me with the project.