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## Mosquitoes smell and avoid the insect repellent DEET.

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Syed Z, Leal WS  
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2008 Sep 9; 105(36):13598-603

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This study challenges a recent report that the insect repellent DEET ([N-N] diethyl-m-toluamide) works by inhibiting the ability of certain olfactory receptors to respond to the host odor {1}.

Instead, the authors describe a subclass of sensilla in mosquito antenna that respond directly to DEET whilst behavioral tests showed that DEET was actively repellent.

The authors also found that experimental coapplication of DEET with known attractants can physically reduce the availability of the attractant, potentially accounting for the previously described "inhibition". Reference: {1} Ditzzen et al. Science 2008, 319:1838-42 [PMID:18339904].

Competing interests: None declared

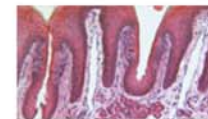
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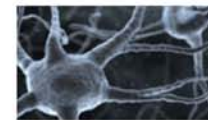
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