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*What Size Of Sand Does The Aquatic Worm T. tubifex Prefer?*

“What texture of sand does the aquatic worm *Tubifex tubifex* prefer?” This is the title of my science fair experiment. *T. tubifex* are worms that live in the mud on the bottom of streams and carry the parasite that causes whirling disease. Whirling disease causes trout to swim poorly so they can’t feed or escape from predators. Eventually the fish dies and spores from the parasite are eaten by the worms. To reduce this disease we can try to decrease the population of *T. tubifex* worms by reducing their habitat. To find what habitat they favor, I tested what size of sand *tubifex* worms prefer. I gave *T. tubifex* worms a choice between used coarse-medium, coarse-fine, and medium-fine sand in three aquaria. After five days I took the *T. tubifex* out of the aquariums and my data showed that they preferred coarse and medium sand over fine sand. The worms showed little preference between coarse and medium sand. This information can help us find the worms so we can try to reduce their population. This will hopefully reduce the spread of whirling disease.