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The Scent of Blood

The purpose of this experiment was to determine whether or not a plant could absorb blood out of the soil without changing the chemical make-up enough that it would be unrecognizable. This was tested using specially trained K9 Search and Rescue dogs, whose noses are extremely sensitive. We ensured that no extra human scent would be on the plants by wearing latex gloves whenever we came into contact with them. Three different dogs were used to determine whether or not the scent of blood had been transferred to the plants, and our results showed that the plants indeed absorbed the blood out of the soil, through its roots. The first two dogs identified one out of the two positive plants, and the third dog identified both positive plants. None of the blank tubes were found by any of the three dogs. All of these results supported the hypothesis, and can now be used in both the biology and K9 Search and Rescue fields. They suggest that plants have the ability to absorb a substance out of the surrounding soil, without changing the chemical makeup very much. They also suggest that search and rescue dogs can find scents that are very old, through vegetation.