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*Local Plants as Insect Repellant*

The objective of this science project was to see if any local plants could be effective as an organic insect repellent. Local plants were gathered and made into infusions using a simple brewing method of steeping in boiling water. A testing environment was made by separating an empty glass aquarium into four equal sections. One small opening was left in each dividing wall to allow the subject insects to move between the different sections. A sponge was saturated with plant infusion and placed in one section of the aquarium habitat so each section had a different plant represented. Crickets were used as the test insect and an even number of them were introduced into each of the plant areas. The crickets were then observed over half an hour as they traveled to and from the different sections. The number of crickets in each plant vicinity was recorded at equal intervals. Although the crickets did actively move between the different plant environments, the Juniper proved to repel the highest number of crickets. The test results prove that local plants can work as a natural bug repellent. The majority of insect repellents on the market are made from chemicals that can be harmful to humans and the environment. By utilizing natural resources, a natural and free bug repellent can be obtained.