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Parasite-Induced Fruit Mimicry in a
Tropical Canopy Ant

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Parasite-Mediated Mimicry

What is it?

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A New Discovery

- *C. atratus* colony in Panama included foragers with conspicuous red gasters.
- Dissection of gaster revealed hundreds of transparent eggs, each housing a coiled worm.

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Methods: Where

Results were conducted in various regions:

- Barro Colorado Island
- Panama Canal Zone
- Lowland locations in the Peruvian Amazon

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Methods: Effects on Ants

Researchers Analyzed:

- Weight of infected vs. non-infected
- Changes in anatomy
- Percentage of reflectance of the gaster on ants
- Percentage of reflectance of ripe *Hyeronima alchorneoides*

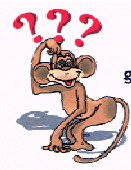
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Methods: Effects on Ants

Researchers analyzed:

- Gaster position
- Force required to dislodge the red gaster

QUESTIONS?



Questions
are
guaranteed in
life;
Answers
aren't.
