BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEES

Julia???

Sinéad Walsh and Sylvia J. Zhu

Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute)

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Abstract

BEEEEEEEES

INTRODUCTION

Bees are a common phenomena in the bucolic countryside. They are easily recognized by their abdominal stripes of alternating yellow and black, their buzzing presence around flowering plants, and their painful defense mechanisms. Some bees produce honey, which is enjoyed by bears (such as brown bears, black bears, and Winnie the Pooh). Due to their ubiquitous presence in nature, they have infiltrated the collective consciousness: Bees appear in children's songs (e.g., a baby bumblebee is successively brought home, squished up, licked up, thrown up, wiped up, and wring'd out by a narrator), alternative '90s American rock songs (a dancing anthropomorphic bee girl in a music video), and terrible animated movies with unimaginative names that are thinly-veiled vehicles for aging comedians past their prime.

Unlike bees, most gravitational wave physicists (GWPs) do not produce delicious amber nectar by flitting 'twixt flowers. However, contrary to popular thought, GWPs can at times be found frolicking outdoors and in close proximity to these same flowers. A GWP who encounters a bee is sometimes judged by the latter to be an enemy, and can be subjected to a stinging attack (known as a "bee sting").

In this paper, we present a population study to elucidate the GWP-bee relationship. We will use "bee" as shorthand to mean "bee, or hornet, or wasp, or any similar stinging flying insect."

OBSERVATIONS

Observations took place over a period of two days, during a portion of the LVC meeting in Pasadena, California in March of 2016 (GPS = 1142125217 to 1142308817 s). We approached individuals in our vicinity and

verbally inquired about their personal bee-related history. Due to the fallibility of human memory, we chose to use a few broad response categories rather than ask for specific numbers. The categories we chose were:

- "None": The subject has never been stung by a bee before.
- "A few": The subject has been stung by a bee less than or equal to three times throughout their life.
- "A lot": The subject has been stung by a bee more than three times but less than or equal to ten times throughout their life.
- "Many": The subject has been stung by a bee more than ten times in their life.

The observational period occurred in multiple stages, with substages. Stage 1 (approximately the first four hours) took place during a reception and "party," and is split into two substages. During Stage 1a (approximately two hours), we only approached subjects with whom we had preestablished acquaintances. However, as the night wore on and we reached the end of our acquaintance list without having achieved a sufficiently large sample size, we began to approach people who were unknown to us and entered Stage 1b. We note that, during this stage, we avoided approaching senior scientists.

Over the next 24-hour period (Stage 2), we did not encounter GWPs in any high concentration but rather obtained new data points sporadically. Alcohol was also involved during part of Stage 2.

[Stage 3 has yet to take place.]

ANALYSIS

(some bee-s)

Five GWPs reported having been stung by a bee "many" times during their lifetimes, defined as "ten or more times." Out of these five, four had a close family member or friend with a bee farm. Without further information, we can only speculate that the fifth GWP is a terrible person and an enemy to all wildlife.

DISCUSSION

(some more bee-s)

Study limitations and caveats

We conducted a large portion of this study during a reception for which ample food had been promised but never procured. Because of this, many reception attendees had been imbibing alcohol on empty or near-empty

stomachs, which could have affected their memory and their responses.

During the data collection process, one of the data takers was coincidentally wearing a shirt with gold and black stripes. This could have ...

As we previously mentioned, during stage two of our data collection process, we preferentially approached scientists who appeared to be more junior. Therefore, our sample collection is biased toward younger and/or immature-presenting GWPs.

CONCLUSION

In this work, we have presented an observational study on the common experience of bees by GWPs. As a next step, the authors will conduct injection studies by releasing bees into various conference rooms.

We thank the LVC for providing us with an ample sample of GWPs.