Thoughts/Recommendations

Looking back on the project there are several points worth mentioning should anyone else wish to do this project. The first problem I had that really rushed me was the lack of time that I gave myself. I had the opportunity to do this project over I would have begun three months sooner. This would have given me the ENTIRE project time to breed generation after generation instead of the measly 2 1/2 months I gave myself to do this project. These extra three months would also allow for a mistake or two. The minute anyone decides to pursue this experiment I would highly encourage him or her to begin planning right away.

I feel that the key reason I got the results that I was looking for was because I tested different amounts of poison on several flies BEFORE I began my actual testing. I was able to easily compare the affects of the different levels of poison and I was able to choose the correct amount of poison to administer. It is important to choose a concentration that does not kill all of the flies, and at the same time kills no flies. Doing this would be a waste of time and flies as it would contaminate the flies and no valid results would be produced.

I was very fortunate that I did not make any mistakes in administering the poison to the first generation of flies. If I had, I would not have had a sufficient amount of flies to test and I would have had to order more flies, which would have resulted in a loss of precious time. Even though it may have cost a little bit more, it would have been wiser to order an extra vial of flies just to be safe. By doing this, I would have not felt as pressured and the entire experiment would have run smoother.

Before anyone decides to take on this experiment, I think that they should be aware of the money that will need to be spent just to get the supplies. I spent close to $50, which was, much more than I anticipated. Anyone who takes on this project has to be willing to pay that much money.

Also, it is important to eliminate the surviving flies after they have bred the next generation. This will then allow you to work with a healthy group of flies. To produce the most accurate results possible, it would be best to continue the experiment for as many generations as possible. It would also be interesting to pay close attention to the behavior of the flies as well. Any change in behavior should be noted as it may prove useful.

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