

Participant Information Statement



Movement and camouflage by virtual prey, using humans as proxy predators

Responsible Researcher
School/Department
Email

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1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study about the ability of humans, as proxy predators, to detect virtual prey animals via a game on a website. The overall goal is to examine how animal camouflage and movement behaviour interact as part of prey animals' anti-predator strategies. We hope to use information we get from this research study to improve our understanding of the behaviour of prey animals.

2. Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by Stella Encel as part of her Honours project in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, supervised by Professor Ashley Ward.

3. What will the study involve for me?

Participation is voluntary and anonymous. No prior knowledge or expertise is required and no personal data (such as name, age, gender, or any other personally identifying characteristics) will be collected about you. There are no costs associated with participating in this research study, nor will you be paid.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to play an online game in which you will be presented with a series of screens with images of aquatic substrates on which will be superimposed images of virtual prey animals, in this case fish, and asked to click on any animals that you detect. We expect this activity to take up to 2 minutes.

4. Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Completing the online game is an indication of your consent to participate. You can withdraw by closing the page before you have clicked. Once you have clicked, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are anonymous and therefore, we will not be able to tell which one yours is.

5. What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

This project will use an external website to collect data on the number of animals that you detect and how long it takes to find them. By participating in the game, you

consent to the research team collecting and using this information for the research study. No information will be collected that would identify you individually. We will keep your data for 5 years on a University of Sydney server.

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. You will not be identifiable in any publication and/or presentation.

6. Will I be told the results of the study?

You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback about the overall results of this study by emailing the project co-ordinator (ashley.ward@sydney.edu.au). You will receive this feedback after the study is finished, in the form of a one-page summary of the study and copies of any publications.

7. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [INSERT HREC Approval No. once obtained] according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

- Human Ethics Manager, Ethics Administration (human.ethics@sydney.edu.au; +61 2 8627 8176)

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