

Experimental write-up

Data Analysis

Mated vs Virgin females (Experiment 2b)

Feeding behaviour

A generalised linear model was used with quasipoisson to count for overdispersion. Day was dropped from the model as there was found to be no significant effect of including day in the model ($P = 0.32$). It was found that there was a strong significant effect in diet choice when comparing mated *drosophila melanogaster* with virgin. When comparing the P:C 8:1 diet to mated and virgin flies, there was a significant difference found ($P = <0.0001$), there was a mean average of 2.74 flies on the 8:1 diet per observation while there was a mean average of only 1.64 flies on a patch at an observation for the virgin females. This shows that mated females will prefer a diet which is high in protein, indicating that mated females are sensible enough to chose a diet which is good for pregnancy, contributing to the growth of their offspring.

Oviposition behaviour

To test for the significance in oviposition behaviour in the mated females, a generalised linear model was used with quasipoisson to count for overdispersion. It was found that although there was not a lot of differences, there were significantly more offspring emerging from diets 1:8 than diets 1:2 ($P = 0.019$). Overall there was a mean average of 114 +/- S.E. 22.5 offspring emerging from 1:8 diets and a mean average of 68.9 +/- 10.6 S.E. offspring emerging from the 1:2 diets. As these diets are both diets which are 'low in protein' it shows that although there is not a lot of preference for any particular diets when mated females are laying their eggs. Data for virgin female egg laying was not collected for this experiment.

Experiment 3

When looking at female feeding behaviour, and if this changed with females alone in a feeding assay, to females who were in a feeding assay with males. There was a small interaction effect of day with diet and feeding choice, however this was not significant from not having day as an interaction effect, ($F_{2,10} = 0.941$, $P = 0.3$), and was therefore dropped from the full model.

do not know why i put those small values – $f = 0.941$ write up

A generalized linear model with quasipoisson was used (as there was over-dispersion), which showed there was no significant difference in dietary choice between mated females who were alone on a plate and mated females who were on a plate with males.