Hello Dr. Gordon,

We’re a research group at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and we’ve been studying your work extensively for the past two years (we’re pretty big fans). We’re building an agent-based model of task-switching dynamics in red harvester ant colonies based on your research, and our model has developed to the point where we can track the number of ants performing nest maintenance, foraging, patrolling, etc., so we would now like to compare our model to exact data.

We’ve pulled data from dozens of your publications, and our model mimics the behavior that we can find in your paper’s charts; however, we would like to test our model against your exact data. Specifically, we would like to calibrate forager stimulation. We would require data that tracks the return of all successful foragers to a colony (through time) relative to the number of new foragers that emerge from the nest mound (through time). We would like similar data on nest maintenance workers, midden workers, and patrollers. If this data is available, would you be willing to share some of your results from the field so that we may test the accuracy of our model?

We’re huge fans of your work, and we’re committed to creating a realistic model of a red harvester ant colony.

Sincerely,

The ANTS research group at the University of Colorado at Boulder