

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

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DATE AUGUST 2018



Image from pixabay

Answer the following questions in full sentences:

1. What is this news story about?

Scientists investigated how a species of ant is able to survive being sprayed by the lethal venom of another species of ant.

2. Explain why the investigators used a group of ants with nail polish painted over their abdomen.

As a control group, so they could determine whether or not the formic acid was having the effect (as this was excreted from the abdomen).

3. Describe the results of the investigation.

98% of the ants that could produce formic acid survived while only 48% of the ants that could not produce formic acid survived.

4. Suggest the pH range that the fire ant venom would fall into.

Alkaline (pH 8-14)

5. Write down the meanings of any words **in bold** in the article.

Tactics – strategies or actions planned to achieve a certain goal

Lethal – can cause death

Colonies – populations or communities of organisms living close together

Displace – take over the place or position of something else

Abdomens – the part of the body between the thorax and pelvis, in insects the segmented part of the body behind the thorax