

# FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

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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