**Fire Ant Communications**

Fire ants talk and communicate with one another with the help of signals and pheromones. The pheromones are a chemical excreted by the ants to influence the behavior of other members of their colony. Pheromones are produced by a wide range of structures including Dufour’s glands, poison glands, and glands on the hindgut, pygidium, rectum, sternum, and hind tibia. Pheromones are also exchanged, mixed with food, and passed by trophallaxis, transferring information within the colony. Fire ants spend a great part of their time in direct contact with the ground, so they use the soil surface to leave pheromone trails that may be followed by other ants. Any violent death of a fire ant emits an alarm pheromone which is high in concentration, and sends other members of the colony into an attack fury. Sometimes fire ants also use the pheromones to confuse their enemies. Fire ants also use their antennae for communication, particularly to smell and for information about direction. In addition, they can also exchange food using their mouths, these fire ant “kisses” are a way of communication for sharing nutrition and chemicals. Fire ants also make sounds by rubbing the joint between their waist and abdomen to produce a squeaky sounds, which is often a cry for help.