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Female Sex Pheromone of Rainbow Trout, *Salmo gairdneri*, Involved in Courtship Behaviour

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Abstract

It was demonstrated that the male rainbow trout, *Salmo gairdneri*, were able to discriminate post-ovulatory females from pre-ovulatory ones on the basis of a chemical cue.

Some important aspects derived from the experiments are listed as follows;

1. Post-ovulatory females released a female sex pheromone, which males detect by olfaction.
2. The female sex pheromone was present in the genital cavity fluid and in the ovaries of post-ovulatory females.
3. The female sex pheromone was divided into two water and/or ether soluble basic substances, having Rf values of 0.11 and 0.00 on the thin layer(silica gel)chromatogram with a cyclohexane-ethyl alcohol-acetone(1:1:1)solvent.
4. The female sex pheromone from post-ovulator females played such roles as informing males of the occurrence of ovulation in females, attracting males, and eliciting persistent courtship of males.

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