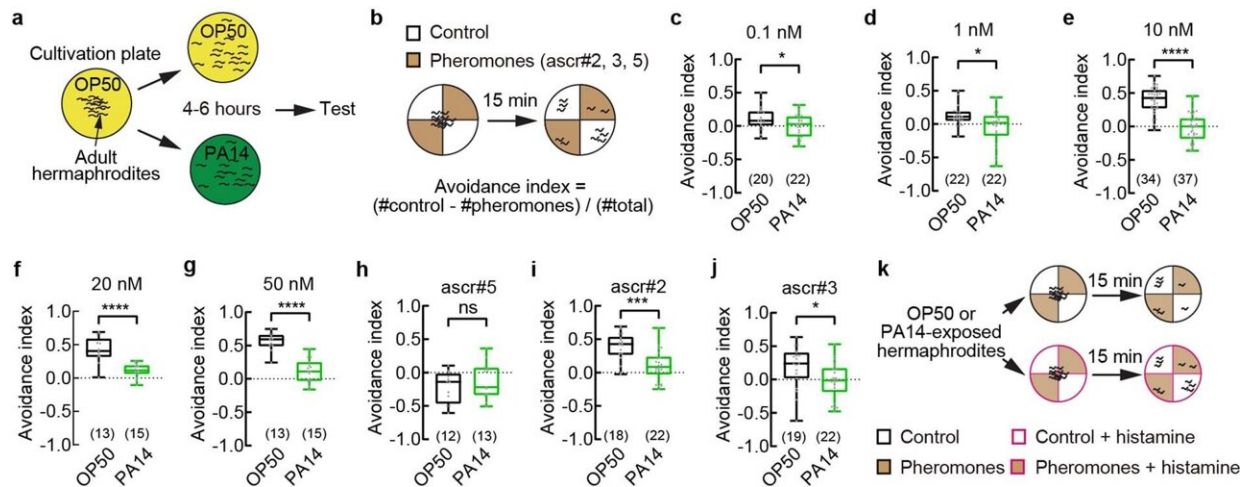


Scientists explain how an infection can produce genetic diversity

March 6 2023, by Alice McCarthy



Pathogen exposure suppresses avoidance of ascaroside pheromones. a, b, k, Schematics for bacteria exposure (a), quadrant assay on ascaroside pheromones (b), and histamine treatment during chemotaxis (k). c–j, Avoidance of the mixture of ascaroside pheromones ascr#2, ascr#3 and ascr#5 over a range of concentrations indicated for each ascaroside at equilibrium (c–g) or avoidance of individual ascarosides (h–j, 10 nM each at equilibrium) in wild-type adult hermaphrodites when exposed to *E. coli* OP50 or *P. aeruginosa* PA14. Positive avoidance index, avoidance. In box plots, the center line shows the median, box edges delineate 1st and 3rd quartiles and whiskers extend to minimum and maximum values. Numbers in parentheses, number of different assays. Dots, avoidance indexes of individual assays. P values are derived from two-tailed unpaired t test, asterisks indicate significant difference, **** P

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