

May 18, 2011

Dear Savage Foundation,

Thank you so much for giving me the funding I needed in order to go to New York this summer for the Genius Olympiad Science Fair. I will be in New York this June to display my science fair project at the first ever Genius Olympiad Science Fair, which highlights ecological experiments by high school students. My experiment was The Effect of Birth Control on Male Crawfish. I got the idea from an article about male black bass being feminized in many U.S. rivers. In my experiment I obtained three tanks and twelve crawfish. In each tank I added rocks for shelter and then four crawfish to each. In two of the tanks, I added various amounts of crushed birth control. I continued doing this for three months and recorded growth in length of body and gonapod (crawfish male reproductive organ) each week. At the end of my experiment I averaged out the growth in each tank to see if a noticeable change had occurred. I concluded that the birth control does not have a noticeable effect on the growth of a crawfish's body and/or gonapod.

Without your financial contribution, I would not have been able to afford to display my experiment at the Genius Science Fair. I really thank you again for all your help. I will send you pictures of the project and fair when I return in June.

Sincerely,

Sandy Pruitt
St. Clair High School