Improbable Research Review

Improbable theories, experiments, and conclusions

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Effect of Beach Parties on Earwigs, Beetles, and Sand Hoppers

"Beach Parties: A Case Study on Recreational Human Use of the Beach and Its Effects on Mobile Arthropod Fauna," L. Fanini, G. Zampicinini, and E. Pafilis, *Ethology, Ecology and Evolution*, vol. 26, no. 1, 2014, pp. 69–79. The authors, at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Iraklion, Crete, Greece, report:

> We studied therefore the impact of small-size, non-commercial beach parties that are commonly held in Greece by analyzing the stress impact of artificial lighting and trampling on the response variable, the number of captures obtained with pitfall traps placed at impacted and control sites.

Table 2.

Abundance data and biodiversity indexes for the impact categories: "Party impact – trampling" and "Party impact – lights" are the traps placed in the party area, subject to light and trampling, and kept active for the duration of the party; "Party control" are the traps placed outside the party area, and kept active for the duration of the party; "Overnight control" are the traps across the supralittoral kept active overnight, without party. Abundance data for the three species characterizing the groups were also reported.

	Party impact – trampling	Party impact – light	Party control	Overnight control
Species number	6	5	7	11
Total abundance	75	62	70	499
Shannon index (H')	1.04	0.68	1.26	1.46
Labidura riparia abundance	48	49	39	212
Phaleria bimaculata abundance	15	10	15	72
Talitrus saltator abundance	10	0	12	166

Detail from the study "Beach Parties: A Case Study on Recreational Human Use of the Beach and Its Effects on Mobile Arthropod Fauna."

Polar Beach Parties

"Promotional Events in Peculiar Places: Persistent Disasters and Polar Beach Parties," Greg Elmer, TOPIA: *Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, vol. 5, 2001. The author, at Ryerson University, explains:

> [The promotion said] "Molson USA requests that the general public refrain from any attempts to crash the party. We share in your enthusiasm for the event, but a personal journey to the Canadian Arctic would be unwise. It is indeed difficult it [sic] not impossible, to get to, and unfortunately, due to the lack of space in the small community of Tuktoyaktuk, Molson will not be able to accommodate anyone without a party invitation."
>
> ...The uneasiness with which such a process occurred was no more apparent than in the inherent contradictory nature of the Molson event itself. Since Tuktoyaktuk forbade the sale of alcohol before the event, the 13,000 cans of beer that Molson brought to the event (averaging twenty-six beers per person) required a convincing rationale. Molson sought to address this contradiction by declaring that alcohol would not be served at the concert and that the town would receive $20,000 outright, along with another $5,000 earmarked for the local alcohol rehabilitation centre.

Planetary Tea, Relatively

"Tea Time in the Solar System," Hannah Natasha Lerman, Benedict Irwin, and Peter Hicks, *Physics Special Topics*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2013. The authors, at the University of Leicester, U.K., report:

> This paper explores the varying boiling temperatures of water on different bodies in the Solar System required to make a cup of tea. We calculated this value for Venus, Earth, Mars, Titan, Triton, and Callisto as these have atmospheres with measured atmospheric pressures at their surface. It was found that Callisto required the lowest temperature to boil water at 126 K whilst Venus required the highest at 596 K. The temperature calculated on Titan was relatively similar to that on Earth with a difference of 11 K.

Table 1 - the calculated temperatures at which water will boil under respective atmospheric pressures on the bodies in the Solar System.

Body	Atmospheric Pressure at the surface (atm)	Boiling temperature (K)
Venus	92 [5]	569
Earth	1 [5]	373
Mars	0.008 [5]	273
Titan	1.45 [6]	384
Triton	1.3×10^{-5} [7]	201
Callisto	7.4×10^{-12} [8]	126

Detail from the study "Tea Time in the Solar System."