Questions 22-32 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Elsa Youngsteadt, "Decoding a Flower's Message." ©2012 by Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society.

Texas gourd vines unfurl their large, flared blossoms in the dim hours before sunrise. Until they close at noon, their yellow petals and mild, squashy aroma attract bees that gather nectar and shuttle pollen from flower to flower. But "when you advertise [to pollinators], you advertise in an open communication network," says chemical ecologist Ian Baldwin of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Germany. "You attract not just the good guys, but you also attract the bad guys." For a Texas gourd plant, striped cucumber beetles are among the very bad guys. They chew up pollen and petals, defecate in the flowers and transmit the dreaded bacterial wilt disease, an infection that can reduce an entire plant to a heap of collapsed tissue in mere days.

In one recent study, Nina Theis and Lynn Adler took on the specific problem of the Texas gourd—how to attract enough pollinators but not too many beetles. The Texas gourd vine's main pollinators are honey bees and specialized squash bees, which respond to its floral scent. The aroma includes 10 compounds, but the most abundant—and the only one that lures squash bees into traps—is 1,4-dimethoxybenzene.

Intuition suggests that more of that aroma should be even more appealing to bees. "We have this assumption that a really fragrant flower is going to attract a lot of pollinators," says Theis, a chemical ecologist at Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts. But, she adds, that idea hasn't really been tested—and extra scent could well call in more beetles, too. To find out, she and Adler planted 168 Texas gourd vines in an Iowa field and, throughout the August flowering season, made half the plants more fragrant by tucking dimethoxybenzene-treated swabs deep inside their flowers. Each treated flower emitted about 45 times more fragrance than a normal one; the other half of the plants got swabs without fragrance.

The researchers also wanted to know whether extra beetles would impose a double cost by both damaging flowers and deterring bees, which might not bother to visit (and pollinate) a flower laden with other insects and their feces. So every half hour throughout the experiments, the team plucked all the beetles off of half the fragrance-enhanced flowers and half the control flowers, allowing bees to respond to the blossoms with and without interference by beetles.

Finally, they pollinated by hand half of the female flowers in each of the four combinations of fragrance and beetles. Hand-pollinated flowers should develop into fruits with the maximum number of seeds, providing a benchmark to see whether the fragrance-related activities of bees and beetles resulted in reduced pollination.

"It was very labor intensive," says Theis. "We would be out there at four in the morning, three in the morning, to try and set up before these flowers open." As soon as they did, the team spent the next several hours walking from flower to flower, observing each for two-minute intervals "and writing down everything we saw."

What they saw was double the normal number of beetles on fragrance-enhanced blossoms. Pollinators, to their surprise, did not prefer the highly scented flowers. Squash bees were indifferent, and honey bees visited enhanced flowers less often than normal ones. Theis thinks the bees were repelled not by the fragrance itself, but by the abundance of beetles: The data showed that the more beetles on a flower, the less likely a honey bee was to visit it.

That added up to less reproduction for fragrance-enhanced flowers. Gourds that developed from those blossoms weighed 9 percent less and had, on average, 20 fewer seeds than those from normal flowers. Hand pollination didn't rescue the seed set, indicating that beetles damaged flowers directly —regardless of whether they also repelled pollinators. (Hand pollination did rescue fruit weight, a hard-to-interpret result that suggests that lost bee visits did somehow harm fruit development.)

The new results provide a reason that Texas gourd plants never evolved to produce a stronger scent: "If you really ramp up the odor, you don't get more pollinators, but you can really get ripped apart by your enemies," says Rob Raguso, a chemical ecologist at Cornell University who was not involved in the Texas gourd study.

22

The primary purpose of the passage is to

A) discuss the assumptions and reasoning behind a theory.

B) describe the aim, method, and results of an experiment.

C) present and analyze conflicting data about a phenomenon.

D) show the innovative nature of a procedure used in a study.

23

As presented in the passage, Theis and Adler's research primarily relied on which type of evidence?

A) Direct observation

B) Historical data

C) Expert testimony

D) Random sampling

24

Which statement about striped cucumber beetles can most reasonably be inferred from the passage?

A) They feed primarily on Texas gourd plants.

B) They are less attracted to dimethoxybenzene than honey bees are.

C) They experience only minor negative effects as a result of carrying bacterial wilt disease.

D) They are attracted to the same compound in Texas gourd scent that squash bees are.

25

The author indicates that it seems initially plausible that Texas gourd plants could attract more pollinators if they

A) did not have aromatic flowers.

B) targeted insects other than bees.

C) increased their floral scent.

D) emitted more varied fragrant compounds.

26

As used in line 38, "treated" most nearly means

A) altered.
B) restored.
C) provided.
D) preserved.

27

What did Theis and Adler do as part of their study that most directly allowed Theis to reason that "bees were repelled not by the fragrance itself" (lines 70-71)?

A) They observed the behavior of bees and beetles both before and after the flowers opened in the morning.
B) They increased the presence of 1,4-dimethoxybenzene only during the August flowering season.
C) They compared the gourds that developed from naturally pollinated flowers to the gourds that developed from hand-pollinated flowers.
D) They gave bees a chance to choose between beetle-free enhanced flowers and beetle-free normal flowers.

28

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

A) Lines 45-50 ("So every . . . beetles")
B) Lines 51-53 ("Finally . . . beetles")
C) Lines 59-61 ("We would . . . open")
D) Lines 76-79 ("Gourds . . . flowers")

29

The primary function of the seventh and eighth paragraphs (lines 65-84) is to

A) summarize Theis and Adler's findings.
B) describe Theis and Adler's hypotheses.
C) illustrate Theis and Adler's methods.
D) explain Theis and Adler's reasoning.

30

In describing squash bees as “indifferent” (line 68), the author most likely means that they

A) could not distinguish enhanced flowers from normal flowers.
B) visited enhanced flowers and normal flowers at an equal rate.
C) largely preferred normal flowers to enhanced flowers.
D) were as likely to visit beetle-infested enhanced flowers as to visit beetle-free enhanced flowers.

31

According to the passage, Theis and Adler’s research offers an answer to which of the following questions?

A) How can Texas gourd plants increase the number of visits they receive from pollinators?
B) Why is there an upper limit on the intensity of the aroma emitted by Texas gourd plants?
C) Why does hand pollination rescue the fruit weight of beetle-infested Texas gourd plants?
D) Why do Texas gourd plants stop producing fragrance attractive to pollinators when beetles are present?

32

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

A) Lines 17-20 (“In one . . . beetles”)
B) Lines 22-25 (“The aroma . . . 1,4-dimethoxybenzene”)
C) Lines 79-84 (“Hand . . . development”)
D) Lines 85-86 (“The new . . . scent”)

CONTINUE