

Antimicrobial secretions of the alkali bee, *Nomia melanderi*

Bachelor of Science

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Starting: flexible

Ground nesting insects are in constant contact with commensalistic or even pathogenic soil microbes. Especially when development and mass provisioning of offspring without paternal care occurs underground, other mechanisms have to cope with this imminent threat. Solitary bees and wasps like the alkali bee *Nomia melanderi* were described to secrete antimicrobial compounds as larvae and prepupae that inhibit co.

This project should verify the growth inhibition of these secretions and test a spectrum of antagonistic organisms in agar diffusion assays. In addition, secretions will be analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to elucidate the composition of these secretions.

