Luke Daniels

Selective Pressures & Tropic Interactions Affecting Gall Size & Location on Goldenrod Stem

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Background

- Galls existing on goldenrod are a model for understanding selection facing flies and plants
- Gall making flies use an ovipositor to stimulate chemical reactions that form a gall
- Parasitic wasps are limited to attacking small galls due to the legth of their ovipositor
- Abrahamson W.G 1989 found directional selection towards the larger gall due to parasitic interactions.





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Hypothesis (Sequential Bullets)

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Hypothesis (Sequential Bullets)

- Galls would exhibit stabilizing selection and would be most prevalent in the middle of the stem to avoid abiotic factors and predation or parasitism from ground wasps and birds
- Galls would exhibit stabilizing selection and would be intermediate in size , large enough to inhibit wasp ovipositors and small enough to avoid bird predation



Figure 1. Heights where galls occur on goldenrod species for categories (p= 0.807).

Figure 2. Diameters of galls on goldenrod species separated by categories of larva fate. There was a significant difference between diameter (p=0.0252). These differences occurred between B & A (p= 0.037) (*) and B & L (p=0.0327)(**)

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Text Overlay on Picture

