

The Effects of UV Radiation on Living Organisms

Lauren Halsey and Edith Rivera

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Abstract

Although the sun plays an important part in our environment, the ultraviolet radiation emitted by it can cause harmful effects to the living organisms on Earth. Its high energy wavelengths can mutate the DNA of the organisms it supports. These mutations can lead to cancer and apoptosis in cells. In this experiment, two different organisms (*Drosophila melanogaster* and *Artemia salina*) were exposed to UVC radiation for thirty minutes each day. In *D. melanogaster*, the UVC radiation caused behavioral differences in their flying and response to stimulus. As for the *A. salina*, their embryonic development was stunted by the exposure to UVC radiation and changes in their response to stimulus were also observed. These results show that UV radiation can cause behavioral and developmental effects on living organisms in our environment.