ABSTRACT

A symbiotic relationship inherently depends on the development of a reliable information channel. This network provides an unintended opportunity for rouge agents to reap benefits by counterfeiting honest signals. In a plant-pollinator system, plants have a multitude of potential signals, primarily visual and olfactory. Some signals are a biproduct of rewards, while other can be positively correlated through pollinator conditioning. Successful pollinators cross reference signals with prior experiences in order to determine the integrity of their sender. We examine the parameters of honest signaling as high-yield and low-yield plants compete for visitation rates in a repeated Sir Philips Sidney Game.