

## Check your understanding



**1** Why is an individual parasitic nematode less likely to infect a host successfully (as compared to a larger group of nematodes)?

Answer [ The insect's immune system will more easily defend the host against a single pathogen. ]

**2** How do insect-infecting nematodes sense the presence of an available host?

Answer [ They look for chemical compounds called volatiles. Some volatiles come from insects, while others are released by plants when they are under insect attack. These volatiles serve as a signal for the parasites. ]

**3** According to our data, do higher concentrations of volatiles attract more nematodes or less?

Answer [ The higher the concentration of the volatiles, the higher the number of nematodes infecting the host. ]

**4** What happens when nematodes have past experience with a volatile?

Answer [ They will look for and prefer the same compound when seeking future insect hosts. ]

**5** Why is biological control a good alternative to pesticides?

Biological control uses the natural enemies of pests. It doesn't use chemical pesticides, which are bad for the environment and for human health.