

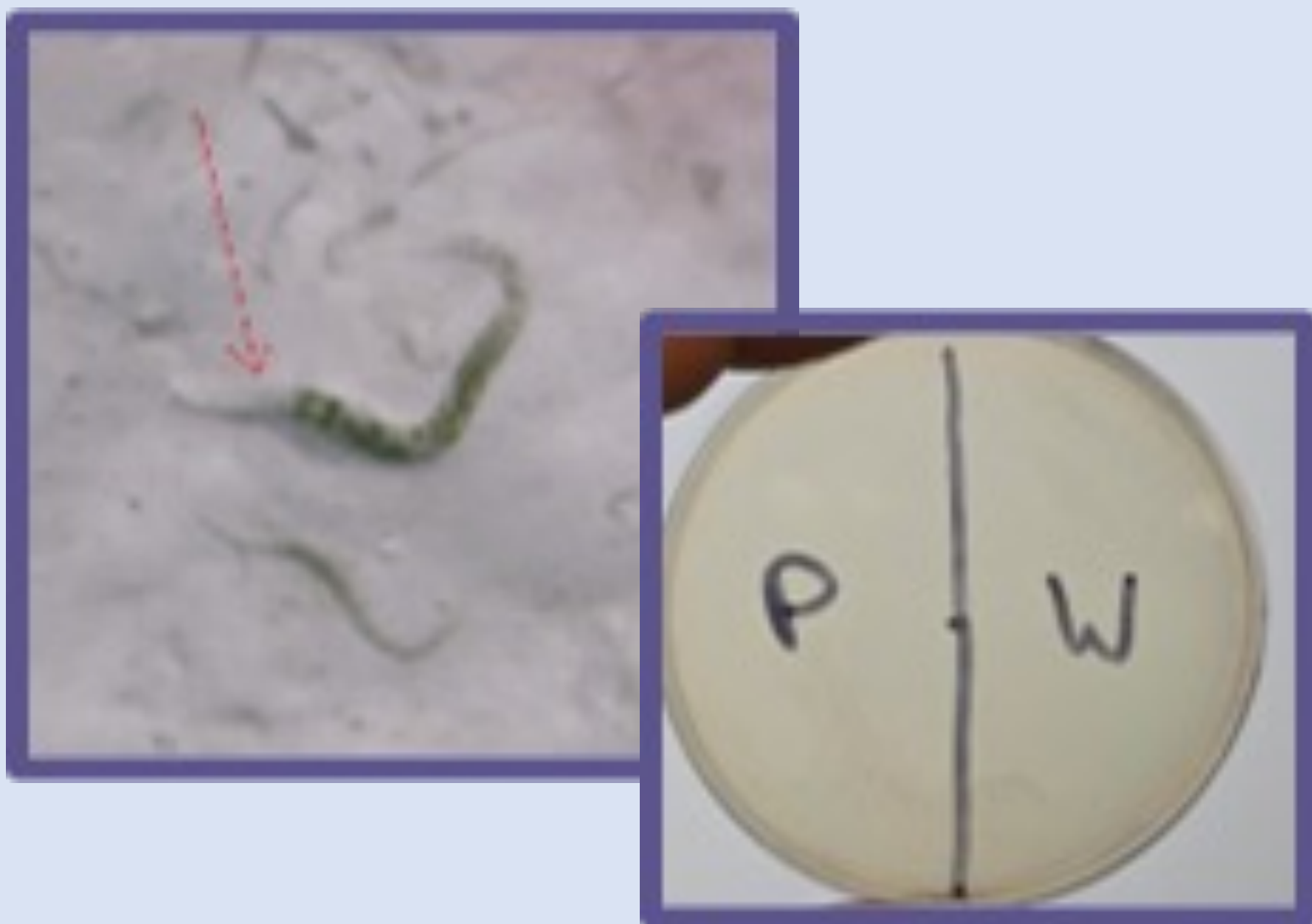
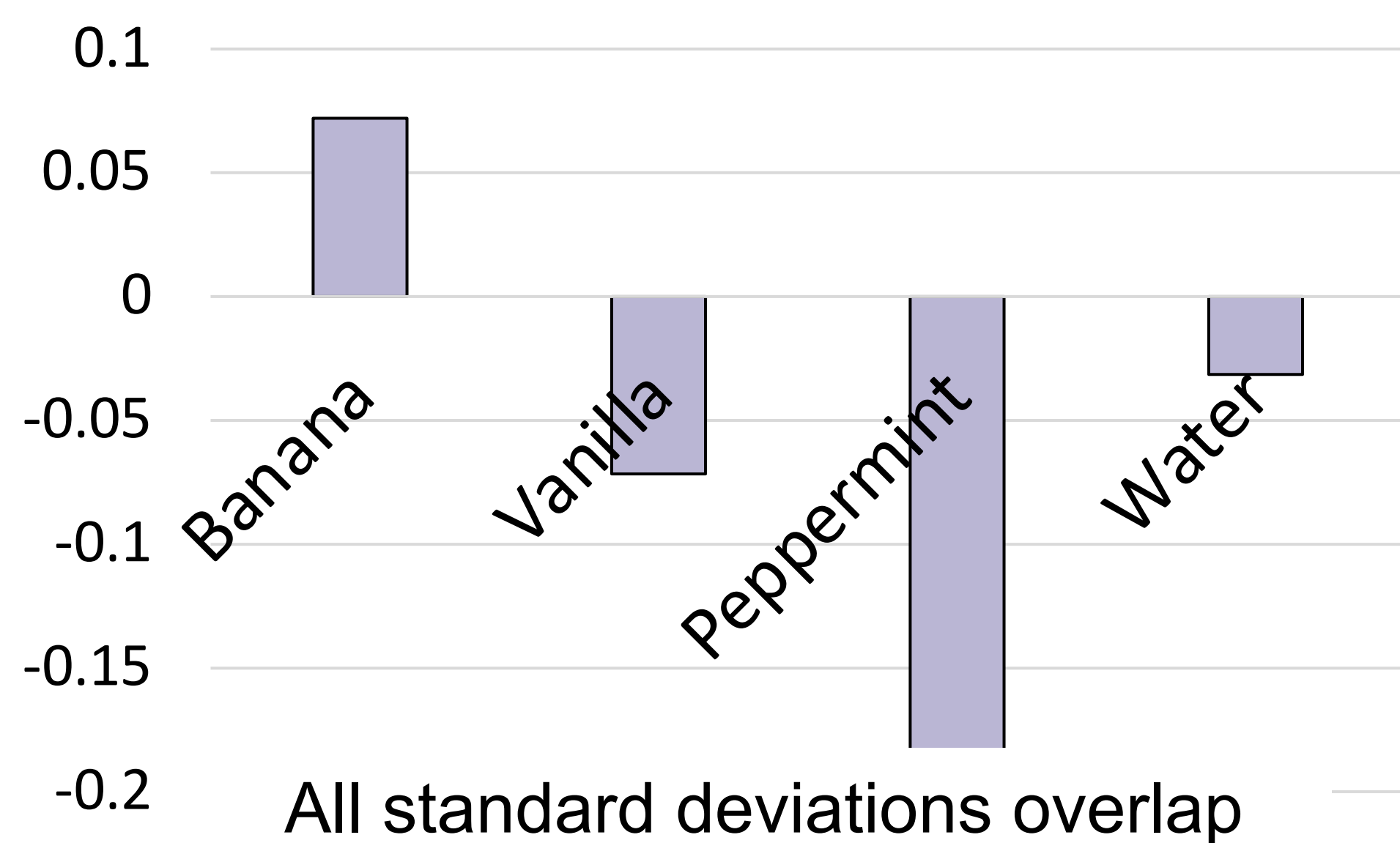
What smells do worms like?

Why have we asked this question?

Caenorhabditis elegans (nematodes) are simpler than humans. They are a model organism for genetic assays, and neurone action as they only have 302 neurones whilst humans have approximately 86 billion.

Four flavours have been used to compare how much nematodes 'like' different flavours.

Chemotaxis index for different flavours



What have we found out?

Nematodes have preference for some flavours over others, although there is no statistical significance. The least well-liked flavour is peppermint.

When compared with mutants whose synapses do not function, Wild type showed more aversion to peppermint, although no statistical significance.