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THE COVER

Nomadic army ants (Eciton burchelli), such as these individuals from a captive colony at the California Academy of Sciences, form living bridges with their bodies to cross gaps along their foraging trails. All ant trails are marked by species-specific pheromones, although their chemical composition remains unknown for most of the world's 20,000 or more ant species. Many behaviors of social insects are likewise mediated by smell signals, including recognizing colony mates and the development of workers and their queen. In "How Animals Communicate Via Pheromones" (pages 114-121), Tristram D. Wyatt summarizes the long history of pheromone research and discusses the animals that have most informed this field, including social insects, moths, and mice. There is one animal whose pheromones remain an intriguing question mark: Homo sapiens. Given recent advances in the field, though, Wyatt says the chemical identification of a human pheromone might be just around the corner. Cover photo by Alexander Wild.)