

explain the mortality decline, we are conducting further experiments and analyses of density effects. So far we have found no statistical evidence in the data for 1.2 million medflies maintained in 167 separate cages that slowing of mortality rates at older ages was an artifact of decreasing cage population densities. The evidence included correlation coefficients for cage population densities at three ages (10, 30, and 45 days) plotted against the respective age-specific life expectancies and mortality rates. In all cases the sign of the regression equation slope was opposite that predicted by density effects, and correlation coefficients were small. Furthermore, density effects alone cannot explain the slowing of mortality at older ages in our two medfly experiments in which flies were maintained in solitary confinement.

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11. For example, the study by Pearl, Miner, and Parker (9) showed that mortality rates in *Drosophila* cohorts with initial densities ranging from 2 to 200 flies per bottle were essentially independent of initial density at ages 50 days and older.

Corrections and Clarifications

The names of Charles Kennel and Thomas A. Tombrello, Jr., were misspelled in John Travis' 30 April News & Comment article "LIGO: A \$250 million gamble" (p. 612).

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