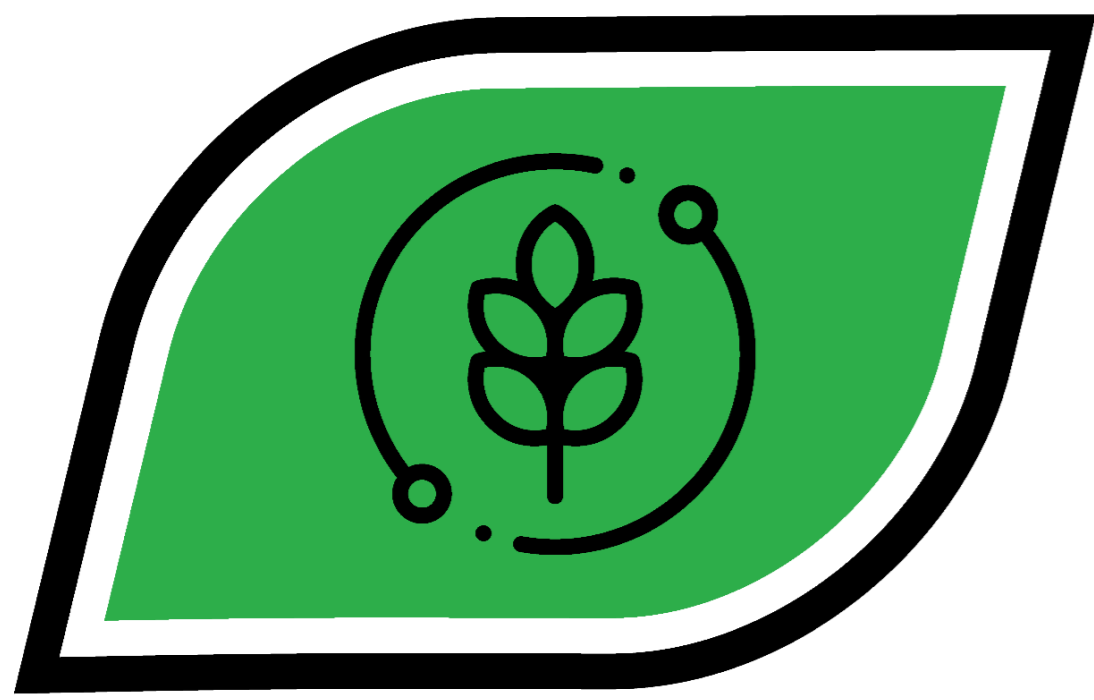


# INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECT OF COW OIL ON SNAKES

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## Introduction

Snakes are beautiful and sensitive creatures, a lot of people fear and respect them but it's mostly they, who fear us. They are essential part of the natural world and play an important part in keeping the rodent population in check, although useful, they can scare some of us and they are best left in their natural habitat. It would be scary prospect to find a snake lurking around your home especially if you have pets and children. Snakes are more common when temperature range between 80 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit, which occur mostly in the spring and summer. They are most active in the early morning and late afternoon because summer temperatures are often too high for them to be out during hottest times of the day. Home remedies are needed to keep away snakes from our surrounding; Home remedies for snakes repellent have several advantages including:

**Availability:** most home remedies for snake repellent use ingredients or methods that is widely available and simple to obtain.

**Affordability:** most home remedies for snake repellent are significantly less expensive than professional products and services on the market.

**Ease to use:** most home remedies for snake repellent are simple to prepare or apply.

**Safety:** when compared to professional snake repellent products on the market, most home remedies are non toxic to humans and pets.

. The project aimed to investigate the effects of cow oil on snakes. This means that to investigate the validity of the answers obtained from the society, if it's true that cow oil can chase away snakes so as we can use it to chase away snakes from our school compound.

In this project the methods we have used to explore the facts is through experimentation and observation at kassa zoo in kisesa Mwanza.

## Method

Snakes are most dangerous and harmful organisms , in our society several cases about snakes have been continuously reported in different places including in our school compound, where in our school surrounding two cases about snakes bites and snakes moulting have been reported. Towards these cases we decided to find out common and natural way used by our society to chase away snakes so that we can employ them to our school compound.

We conducted inquires through questionnaire to people around our school compound; we obtained some few deed views on the ways used to chase away snakes. Among those methods were the use of burning tyres, cow oil, chemical with chocking smell like vinegar and kerosene etc. we were influenced by the use of cow oil to chase away snakes.

Cow oil is a type of clarified butter which is composed of palmitic acid ( $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{COOH}$ ) and oleic acid ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_2$ ). Cow oil is found in cow milk when the cow milk is left to settle it produces oil at the top which is cow oil. In our societies cow oil has got variety of use such as cooking, traditional medicine and for religious rituals.

## Results

After the smeared board was being brought near the snake, the snake started to move toward the board while its tongue moving out, from this we observed that the smell of cow oil is what made the snake to move toward the board because it detected it as food and thought that it was a cow. But when it detected that it was not a cow a snake did not attack instead kept moving its tongue in and out.



Snake's cages



A photo of snake cages



A photo of snake in their cage in their normal state.

oil was smeared on the board



A photo showing cow oil smeared on the board.

Using graph stick, the smeared board was brought near the snake.



A photo showing smeared board brought near the snake.



A photo showing response of a snake toward smeared board with cow oil

## Conclusion

The results of our project have been negative from what we expected. We expected that the snakes would move away when smeared board was brought nearby. Hence from the result, we learnt that cow oil cannot chase away snakes as our society believed.

Since our results have been negatively confirmed from what we expected, we tested another way suggested by the society around our school compound which was the use of Chemicals with pungent smell such as kerosene. The pungent smell of kerosene is brought by its chemical compositions of aromatic hydrocarbon which are paraffin ( $\text{C}_7\text{H}_8$ ) and naphthalene ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8$ ) and thus it gave us positive results as the snakes moved away from the smeared board with kerosene. More over the use of kerosene forces snakes out of places where they are hold when poured on them, But kerosene will never pre empty their intrusion.

Through this we advice the society that cow oil cannot chase away snakes from their surrounding since its components which are palmitic acid and oleic acid has no pungent smell and are fine to snakes. Hence they should use other alternative way like the one which gave us positive results that was the use of chemicals with chocking smell like kerosene, petrol and vinegar. Also even us we are going to employ this way to chase away snakes from our school compound and thus reduce snakes bite cases in our school.

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