

〈教育セミナー〉

アクセサリーオーガンとオーラルケアの香粧品学～エチケットのサイエンス～

心を揺さ振る匂い

篠原一之

Scents Affecting Emotions

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Abstract

Among primates in general, pheromones are of variable importance to social communication. Data on human have generated the greatest controversy regarding the existence of pheromonal communication. In this review, chemical communications in humans are summarized in chronological order and are discussed in the point of pheromonal communications. From prenatal periods, humans started to communicate *via* various odors. “The taste of mother’s home cooking” is established during prenatal and neonatal periods *via* odors of amniotic fluid and mother’s milk from mothers’ digestion. On the first day of birth, pheromones in breast’s milk make neonates approach to nipples. Mothers discriminate their own infants by body odors on the day of delivery. Olfactory signals are indispensable to communication between mothers and children before and after birth. The scents of women in the lactation period make nulliparous women more reproductive. In addition to motherhood, olfactory information plays an important role in reproductive function of women. It is interesting that even after reproductive period, women release scents, which ease depressive mood of children.

Key words: pheromone, body odor.