ELEPHANTS AND CHEESE: AN EXPLORATORY PAPER

by Teck Wann

According to the article, _______________________________________.
It is widely known that elephants fear cheese, and will flee at the first
whiff of it. What is not yet well understood is why this phenomenon
occurs. For more than a decade academics have been researching this
perplexing topic. Their work constitutes part of the booming new
discipline known as pachydermo-fromagology, which is defined as
“the study of elephant-cheese interactions” (______________).
This paper will evaluate existing research and theories, and argue that
none of them satisfactorily explain the data which has been gathered
so far.

That elephants fear cheese was an accidental discovery made by
the noted elephantologist (__________________). The story of the
discovery is now famous, but worth repeating:

After a hard morning following the herd, I had just sat down
under a tree for lunch and unwrapped a particularly delectable
chunk of cheddar sent up from the base camp. Suddenly I heard
an enormous trampling sound, and when I looked up, the entire
herd was gone. (__________________)

His discovery, while dismissed at the time, was subsequently
corroborated by other researchers. Several studies by
________________________ have confirmed
the phenomenon, and that it occurs among both African and Asian
elephants. A recent report by the________________________
established that smell is the primary means elephants detect cheese,
and that they will ignore large pieces of cheese if tightly wrapped.
Meanwhile a French cheese expert asserts on his website that
elephants do not flee from French cheese, only the lesser cheeses of
other nations. “Zee creatures, zey have good taste, non?” he writes
(__________________)

Recently, a new theory has exploded on the scene and caused
quite a stink. Based on several clever experiments, (__________) has
claimed that in fact elephants do not fear cheese at all, but instead fear
the mice which are attracted to cheese. However, this theory, which
she calls the Maas Mouse Hypothesis (MMH), has not yet been widely
accepted. One researcher, (__________) has published a
series of articles roundly denouncing the MMH, and the debate has
even spilled over into the popular press (__________).
References


