

Dear WSA APS Labs,

We are a group of scientists who believe passionately about the power of the Armadillidium Vulgare! These poor creatures are considered by most of humankind to be insects, and are often called “bugs,” “pill bugs,” or roly-polys.” Little do people realize that they are decomposers of the greatest kind. They are not bugs at all but crustaceans related to shrimp and crabs. We believe they are powerful creatures and the hope of the future!

We want to scientifically show that these creatures have similar power to humans – just on a smaller scale. We would like you to design an experiment to test the power of a pill bug working against gravity. Pill bugs are great climbers and for our purposes, ignore the work done in the horizontal direction – just look at the work done against gravity, as you would calculating a person’s work climbing up a set of steps.

Please present your experimental design with diagrams. Run trials with several of the pill bugs I have brought. Present your data and also the average Power of a Pillbug. It would be fantastic if you could calculate a scaled-up Power – the power the pill bug would have if it were the mass of a person – say, the mass of the most powerful person in this room?! All in all, we need you to provide evidence that the pill bug is a very powerful creature and worthy of our attention.

To sum up what we are looking to see from you:

- Experimental design for determining power of a pill bug
- Data and results on tests done on several of the pill bugs
- Power the pill bug would have if it were the mass of a human

We are expecting great things from you. Thank you for taking on this challenge. Good luck and may the power of the Armadillidium Vulgare be with you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sttaw

The American Association of Crustaceology