A lowly fly inspires a hearing aid for humans

By Scott Leather

A fly's hearing is among the most sensitive in the animal kingdom. Recent studies indicate that a fly's hearing is as acute as the human ear at the highest frequencies. This unique ability to detect sound waves was discovered by researchers from the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

The fly's ears are located in the legs, and consist of tiny hairs called trichomes. These trichomes are highly sensitive to sound and can detect vibrations as low as 500 Hz. This sensitivity is crucial for the fly, as it uses its hearing to locate food, avoid predators, and communicate with other flies.

Recent research has shown that the fly's hearing system could be adapted for use in human hearing aids. The design principles of the fly's ears could be used to create a new type of hearing aid that is more sensitive and efficient than current models.

For more information, please see our upcoming issues.
Ear

Loosely insect inspires improved hearing aid

New generation of adult flies and the bats of the night has led to the design of a new type of hearing aid that can actually move to capture sound.

In the laboratory of Ron Hoyle, a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, the team of engineers is working on a new hearing aid that moves to capture sound. The device is called the "fly hearing aid" and is designed to mimic the movements of a fly's ears, which move to capture sound.

The fly hearing aid is based on the idea that flies use their ears to capture sound by moving their ears in a way that allows them to focus on the sound source. This movement allows the fly to capture sound at a distance of up to 20 feet.

The engineers are working on a device that can capture sound in a similar way by using a series of moving elements that can be controlled by software. The device is designed to be small and lightweight and can be worn on the ear.

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