That is why

Where does a plant end and an animal begin?

Counting, learning, sensing and teaming up are not just for animals. Plants and others do them too.

A Plants that count and learn

Venus flytrap: counting touches



Each touch sends an electrical signal. At 5, all 37,000 glands switch on digestion.

Sensitive plant: learning to ignore

60 harmless drops in a row



Tested again 28 days later: it still remembered.

B Plants that sense

1 Dodder sniffs its prey

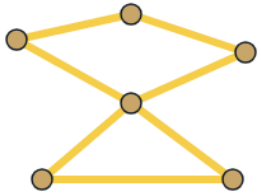
It can't make its own food. Its seedling grows toward tomato scent, and picks tomato over wheat when given the choice.

2 Chameleon vine copies

Plants under an artificial plastic vine tried to copy its leaves. Plant vision is one hypothesis: plausible, not proven.

C When no box fits

Slime mold network



Single cell. After 26 hours: a network like Tokyo's railways.

1 Algae in an animal

Algae live inside the cells of spotted salamander embryos, a first for a vertebrate. Oxygen and sugar one way, waste back.

Animals don't own counting, learning or sensing.

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