

Pest-Powered Robots

This would be cool if it could be perfected:

British scientists are developing a robot that will generate its own power by eating flies.

The idea is to produce electricity by catching flies and digesting them in special fuel cells...

the robot is part of a drive to make "release and forget" robots that can be sent into dangerous or inhospitable areas to carry our remote industrial or military monitoring...

Even better would be a scaled-up version that eats terrorists.

Tue, 01/04/2005 - 17:20 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Balance

I'm sure some eco-fanatics will complain that machines that consume flies will upset some kind of sacred natural balance, though.

I doubt they'd have a problem with it consuming humans.

Gil

by [Gil](#) on Tue, 01/04/2005 - 20:31 | [reply](#)

Flies

Flies are one thing, those pesky little creatures with wings and big eyes that feed on carrion.

Terrorists tho all look the same on the outside like those flies. A mistake of discrimination and the wrong human gets eaten.

Efficient tho.

by a reader on Wed, 01/05/2005 - 16:19 | [reply](#)

Flypaper

Flypaper is cool too and it is already perfected. Flys flock to it

because it smells sweet and stick to it because it is very very sticky.

Certainly some bright scientific group could invent terrorist paper?

by a reader on Wed, 01/05/2005 - 16:25 | [reply](#)

Flies and Flypaper

To solve the discrimination problem, they should just incorporate our **handy guide** into the robot's ROM.

As for terrorist flypaper, some people say that it has **already been invented**.

by [Editor](#) on Wed, 01/05/2005 - 18:20 | [reply](#)

Handy guide?

It's a great guide but the rules are somewhat high level, the ROM is going to have to be pretty large to hold the complex discrimination software.

A practical solution would be to strap a political philosopher onto the sensor arm of the robot. He or she would then press a button if the next encountered human is a terrorist.

I volunteer Gil for the test phase.

Please don't wave your arms around too much, Gil, or you may repel the flies :p

by [Tom Robinson](#) on Wed, 01/05/2005 - 20:33 | [reply](#)

Um...

Why would I have to be strapped to the thing?

Can't I watch video camera output remotely?

Perhaps Tom should do the testing until Beta 2 is ready.

Gil

by [Gil](#) on Wed, 01/05/2005 - 22:27 | [reply](#)