



Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech  
Université de Liège

# Insectes comestibles et alimentation humaine : sans aucun doute ?

Frédéric FRANCIS

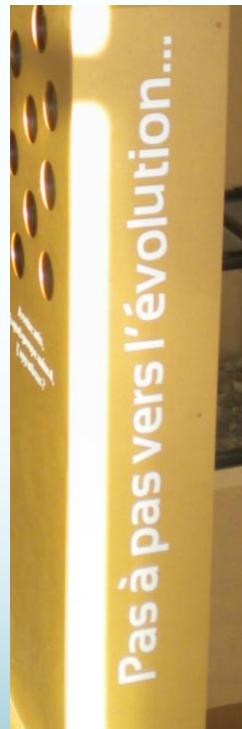
Entomologie fonctionnelle et évolutive, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech,  
Université de Liège, Gembloux, Belgique

Insectarium Jean Leclercq – Hexapoda, Waremme, Belgique  
\*Contact : [frederic.francis@ulg.ac.be](mailto:frederic.francis@ulg.ac.be)



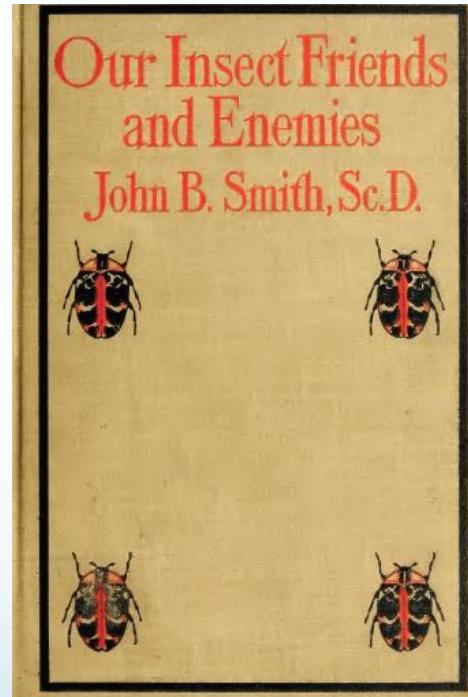
# Introduction

Insectes : groupe animal le plus abondant et diversifié sur terre, impliqué dans divers food webs ... mais pas le plus apprécié ...



# Introduction

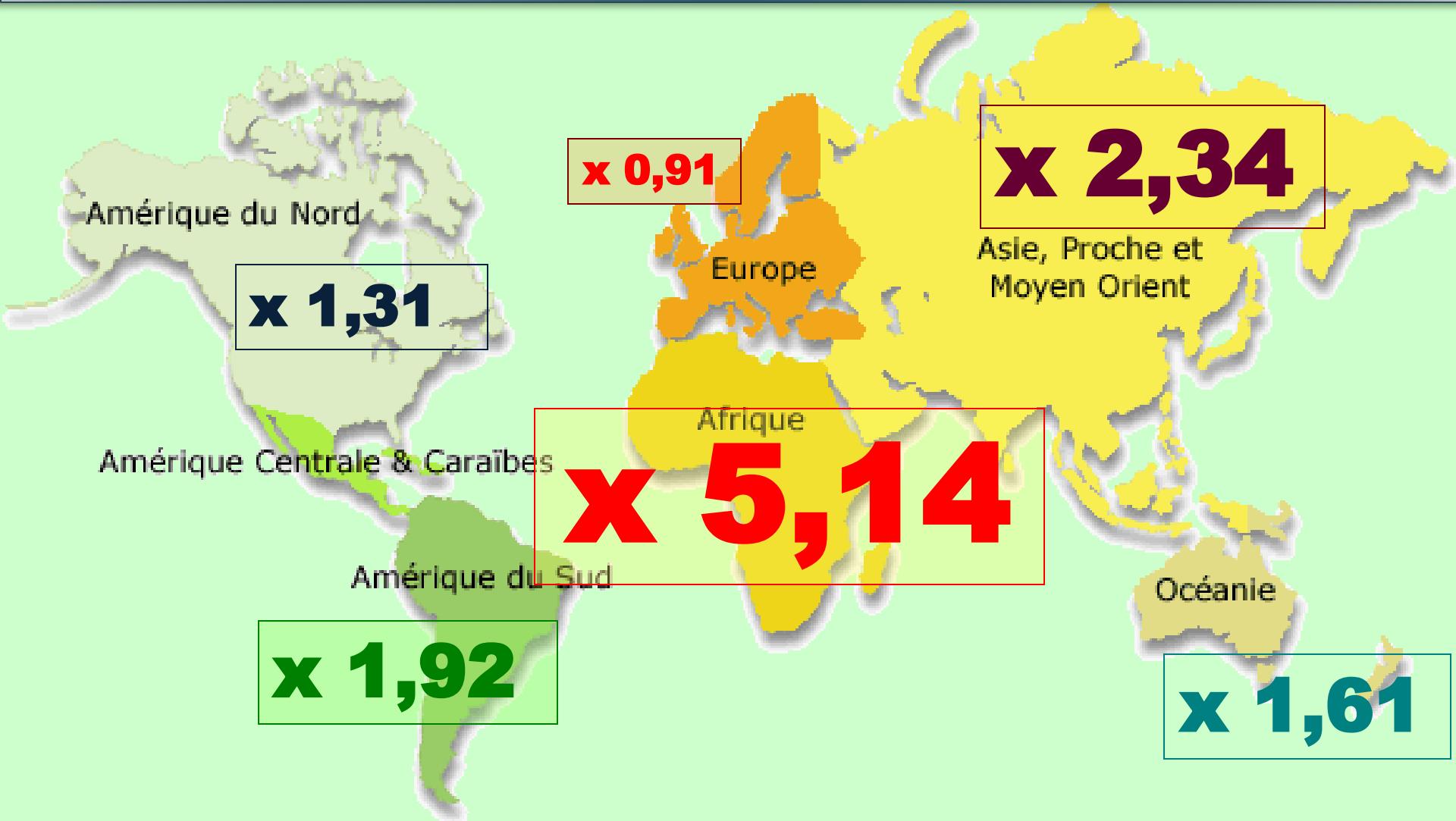
Smith (1909) « Our insect friends and enemies; the relation of insects to man, to other animals, to one another, and to plants »



... last chapter entitled « the war against insects ».

# Les besoins alimentaires

Il faudrait augmenter de 70% la production agricole  
pour que tout le monde mange bien en 2050



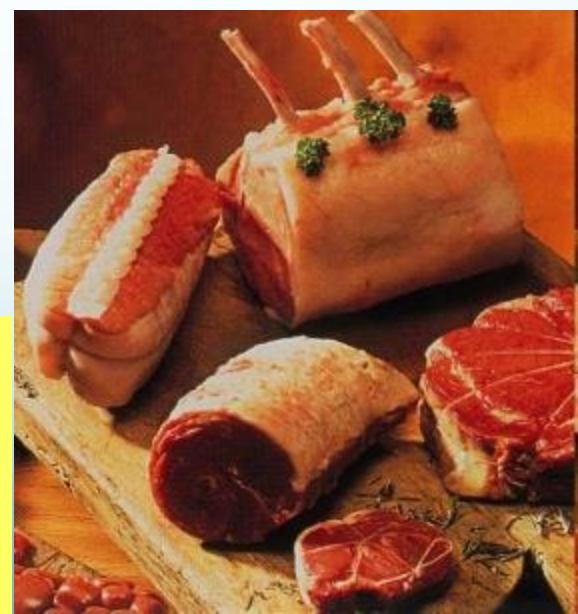
# Un français mange dans sa vie :

- 2 400 Kg de poissons et crustacés
- 32 000 litres de lait (**91 Kg laitages / an**)
- 20 000 œufs
- 7 bovins
- 33 cochons
- 9 chèvres et moutons
- 1 300 volailles
- 60 lapins

}

**85 Kg de viande / an**

**Un américain 125 Kg  
Un chinois 56 Kg  
Un africain 11 Kg  
Un indien 6 Kg / an**



# Les bonnes raisons de devenir un entomophage

(PLoS One, 5, e14445, 2010)

Species	CH <sub>4</sub> (g/kg BM/day)	N <sub>2</sub> O (mg/kg BM/day)	CO <sub>2</sub> eq. (g/kg BM/day)	NH <sub>3</sub> (mg/kg BM/day)
<i>Pachnoda marginata</i> (n=4)	0.16±0.085 <sup>a</sup>	0.0±0.03 <sup>a</sup>	4.00±2.13 <sup>a</sup>	0.1±0.16 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Tenebrio molitor</i> (n= 4)	0.00±0.002 <sup>b</sup>	1.5±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	0.45±0.04 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.09 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Blaptica dubia</i> (n= 3)	0.08±0.021 <sup>c</sup>	0.3±0.24 <sup>a</sup>	2.12±0.57 <sup>c</sup>	3.0±1.63 <sup>b</sup>
<i>Acheta domesticus</i> (n= 4)	0.00±0.002 <sup>c</sup>	0.1±0.13 <sup>a</sup>	0.05±0.04 <sup>b</sup>	5.4±3.40 <sup>c</sup>
<i>Locusta migratoria</i> (n=6)	0.00±0.017 <sup>c</sup>	8.0±13.50 <sup>b</sup>	2.37±4.02 <sup>c</sup>	5.4±1.65 <sup>c</sup>
Pigs	0.049–0.098	2.7–85.6	2.03–27.96	4.8–75
Beef cattle	0.239–0.283	N/A	5.98–7.08	14–170



# Les bonnes raisons de devenir un entomophage

Pour 10 kg de nourriture :

- 1 kg de bœuf



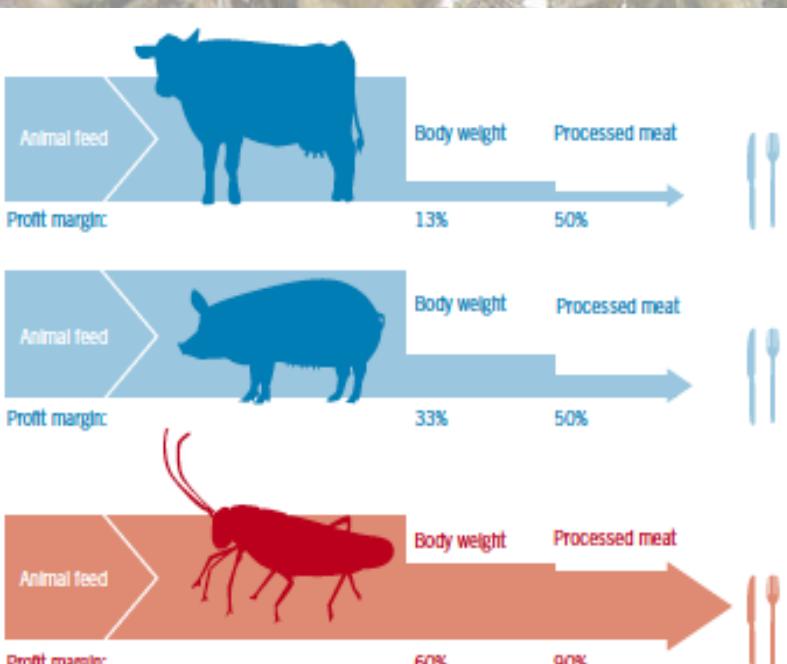
- 3 kg de porc



- 5kg de poulet



- 9 kg d'insectes



# **Les bonnes raisons de devenir un entomophage**

- **Distant de l'homme = pas de transmission de maladie**
- **Meilleure conversion de la nourriture chez les insectes**
- **Excellente valeur nutritionnelle**
- **Moins de déchets et plus respectueux de l'environnement**
- **Plus de fertilité et croissance plus rapide**
- **Élimination du ravageur et apport alimentaire protéiné**

# Pourquoi ne mangeons-nous pas d'insectes?

## Facteurs culturels :

- Habitudes régionales et/ou religieuses



## Facteurs individuels: seuil de perception et seuil d'identification

- Préférences/aversion
- Néophobies



**Facteurs économiques:**  
facilité  
d'approvisionnement  
et prix

**Comportements innés universels ...remplacés par des comportements acquis**

# Insecte proie-homme

Des insectes prédateurs à  
l'homme ...

Opportunité similaire de  
comprendre les relations  
“food webs” fonction de la  
diversité de proies et  
origines géographiques

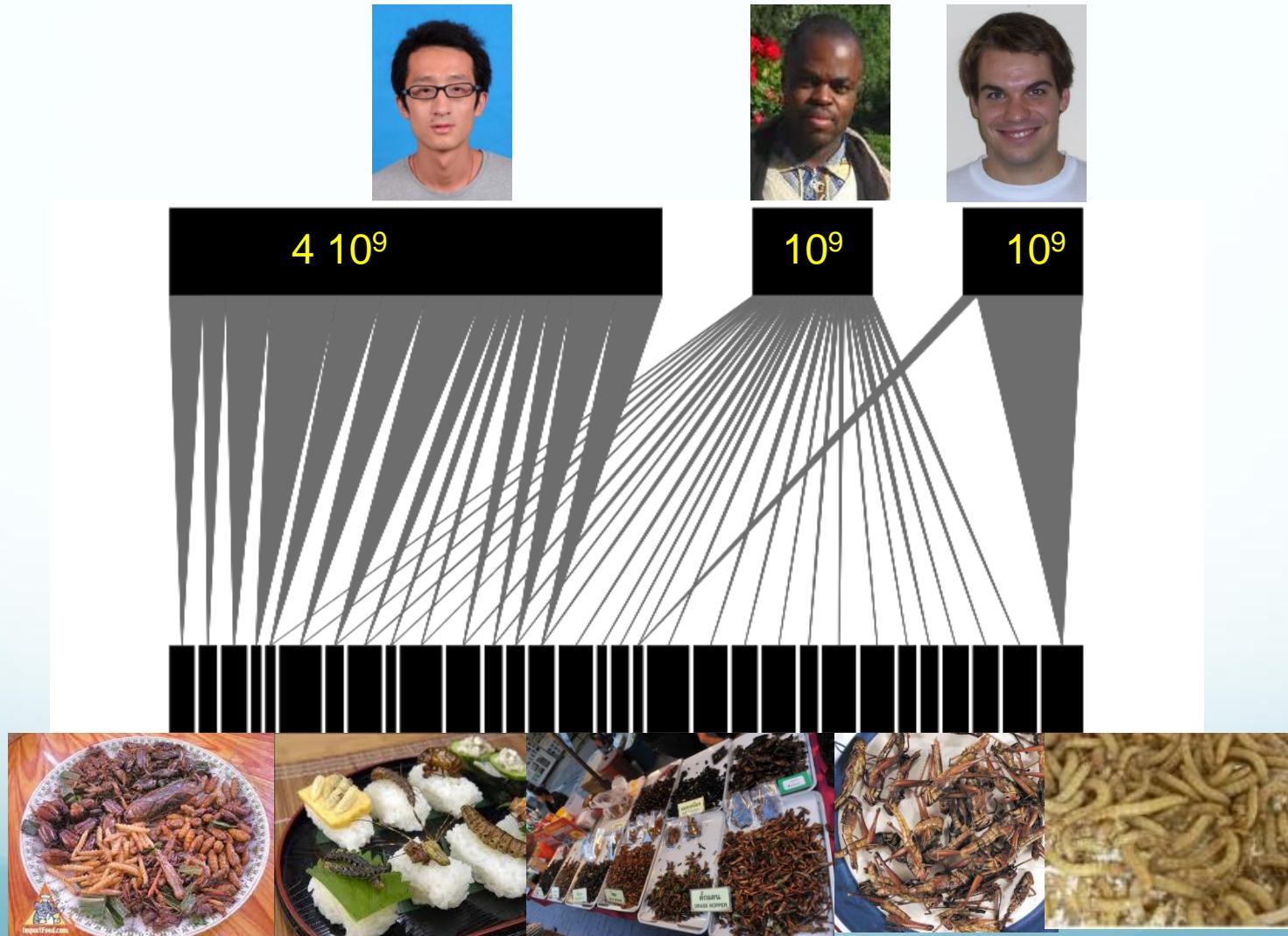


# Des insectes ... c'est certains ?

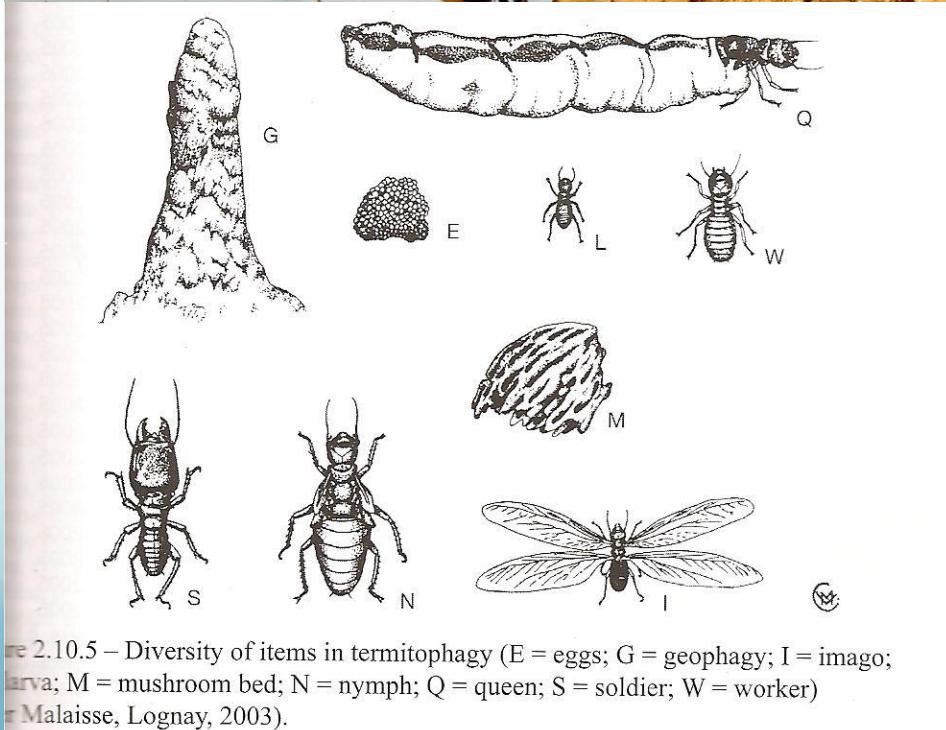


# Insectes-homme

## Comportements entomophages



# Classiques: termites - chenilles



# Entomophagie dans monde

In America ( $\pm 510$  sp) :



In Asia & Oceania ( $\pm 340$  sp) :



In Africa ( $\pm 530$  sp) :

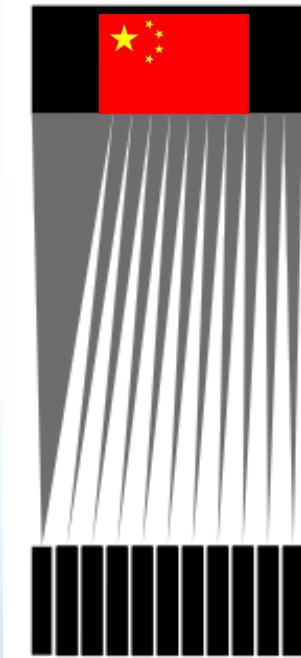


In Europe ( $\pm 30$  sp) :



# Insectes – homme

Focus géographiques ...



Chine :  
diversité sur les  
marchés



Vietnam :  
quelques espèces



# Insecte - homme

## Focus géographiques ... suite



Europe:  
ténébrions  
et grillons



RDC:  
Chenilles et  
termites



Benin:  
Criques  
et  
Oryctes



# Edible insects acceptance of Belgian consumer ?

Journal of Sensory Studies



Journal of Sensory Studies ISSN 0887-8250

## EDIBLE INSECTS ACCEPTANCE BY BELGIAN CONSUMERS: PROMISING ATTITUDE FOR ENTOMOPHAGY DEVELOPMENT

RUDY CAPARROS MEGIDO<sup>1,4,5</sup>, LUDOVIC SABLON<sup>1</sup>, MÉLODIE GEUENS<sup>1</sup>, YVES BROSTAUX<sup>2</sup>,  
TAOFCIC ALABI<sup>1</sup>, CHRISTOPHE BLECKER<sup>3</sup>, DIDIER DRUGMAND<sup>4</sup>, ÉRIC HAUBRUGE<sup>1,4</sup> and  
FRÉDÉRIC FRANCIS<sup>1,4</sup>

- Experiment was held in an insectarium
- 384 visitors were recorded
- 189 people participated to this study  
49.2 % of the people!



8 Preparations



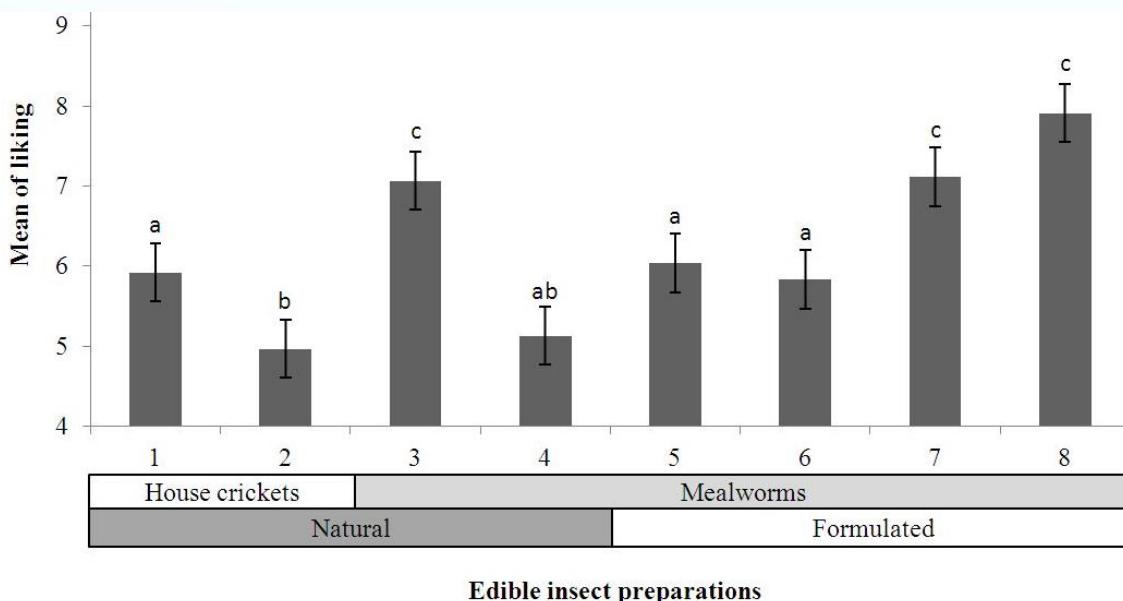
Boiled 6.5 min - Baked for 7 min (200°C) -  
akèd + Vanilla - Baked + Paprika -  
Baked + Chocolate

Boiled 8 min - Baked for 15 min (200°C)

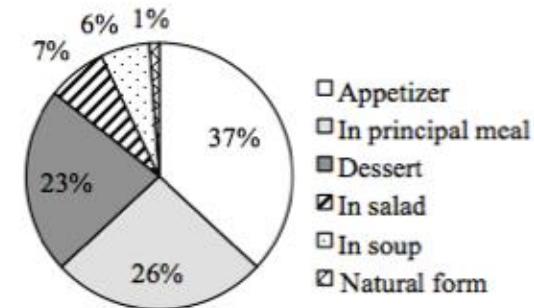
Mixed powder



# Edible insects acceptance of Belgian consumer ?



**Figure 1:** Liking of different meal preparations: (1) house crickets baked; (2) house crickets boiled; (3) mealworms baked; (4) mealworms boiled; (5) crushed mix of both species; (6) mealworms with vanilla; (7) mealworms with paprika; (8) mealworms with chocolate. Different letters show a significant difference for meal preparations at  $P < 0.05$  (pairwise comparisons by Tukey's test).

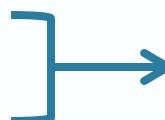


**Figure 3:** Responses ( $n = 97$ ) to the question: "If yes, in which form would you cook insects?"



# Insect-based meat substitutes?

- Experiment was held in an nutrition school
- Students from 18 to 25 y.o. were invited
- 79 students participated to this study and only 1 finally refused to taste preparations



4 Preparations



50 % of mealworms  
45 % of beef

95 % of beef

50 % of mealworms  
45 % of lentils

95 % of lentils



The last 5 % = Aromatic base composed of carrots, onions, tomato puree

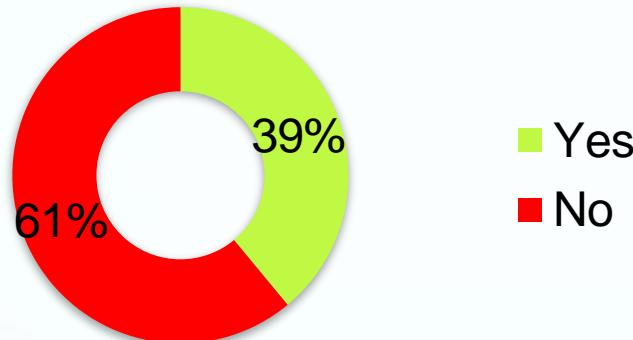
# Are our burgers harmless?

Sample	Total bacterial count	Yeasts and molds
	$7.6 \cdot 10^4$	$1 \cdot 10^2$
	$1.1 \cdot 10^5$	$1.4 \cdot 10^2$
	$1.9 \cdot 10^5$	$1 \cdot 10^2$
	$1.7 \cdot 10^5$	$8 \cdot 10^1$
Limits for minced meat	$5 \cdot 10^5$	$10 \cdot 10^2$

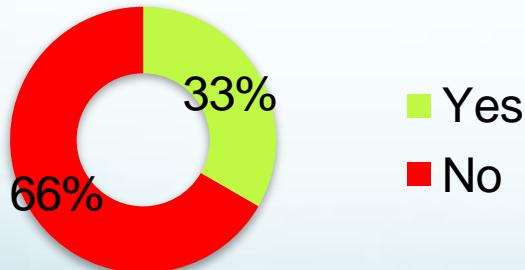
*Escherichia coli*

*Clostridium perfringens*

## Do you know entomophagy ?

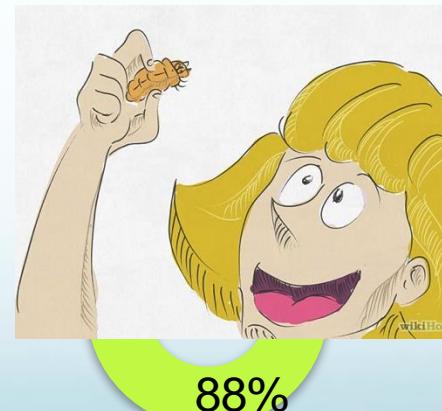
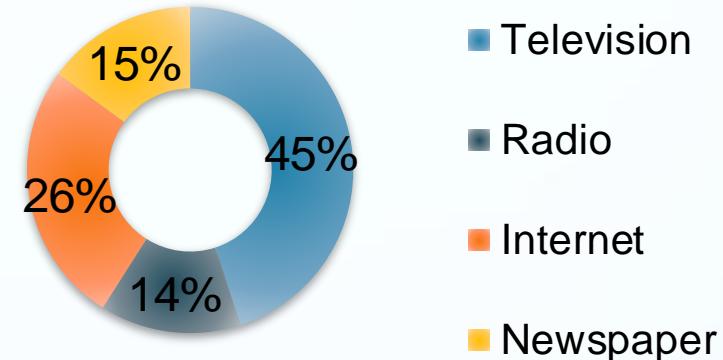


Have you already eaten insect ?



## Entomophagy ?

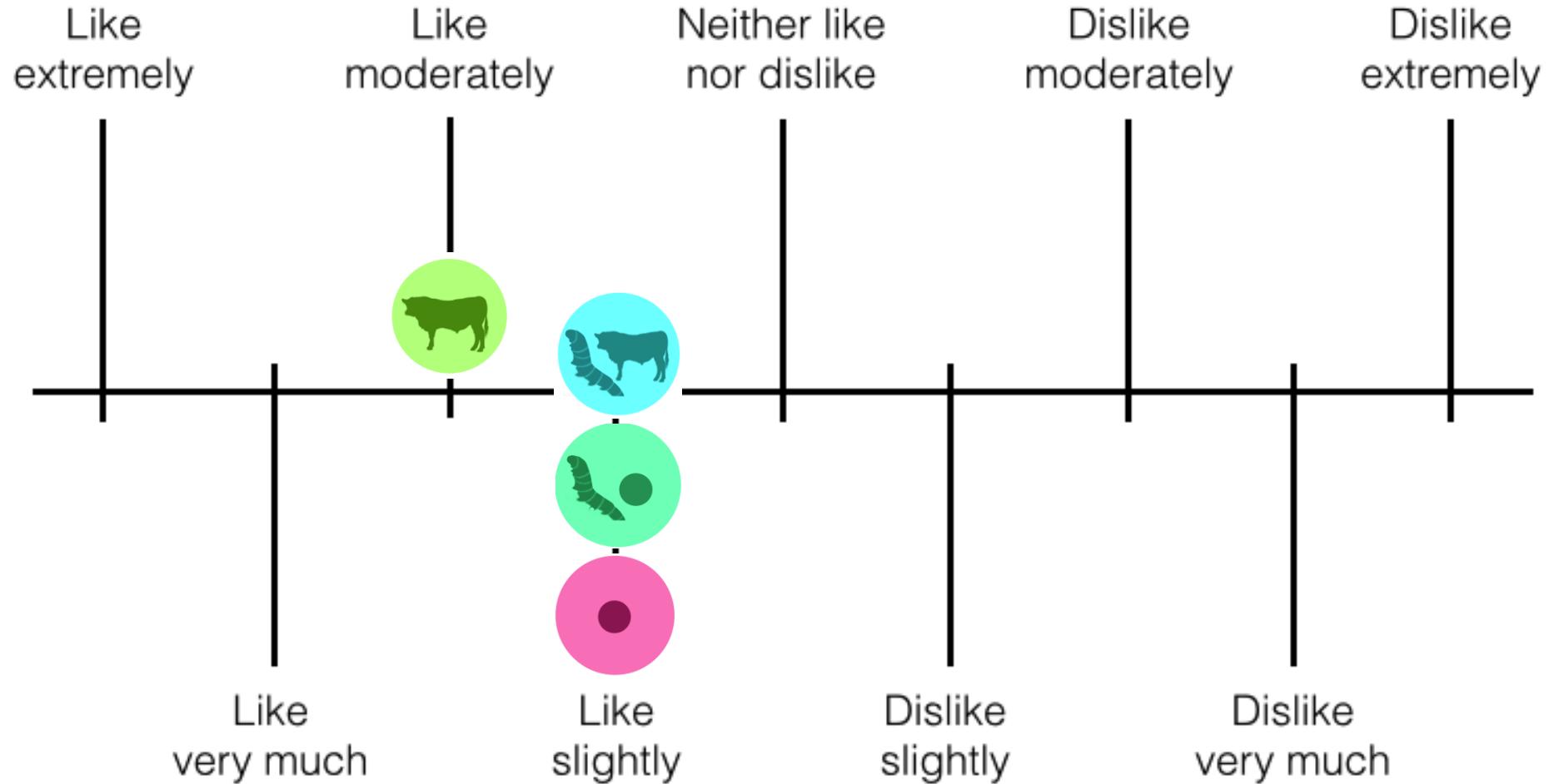
Through which channel ?



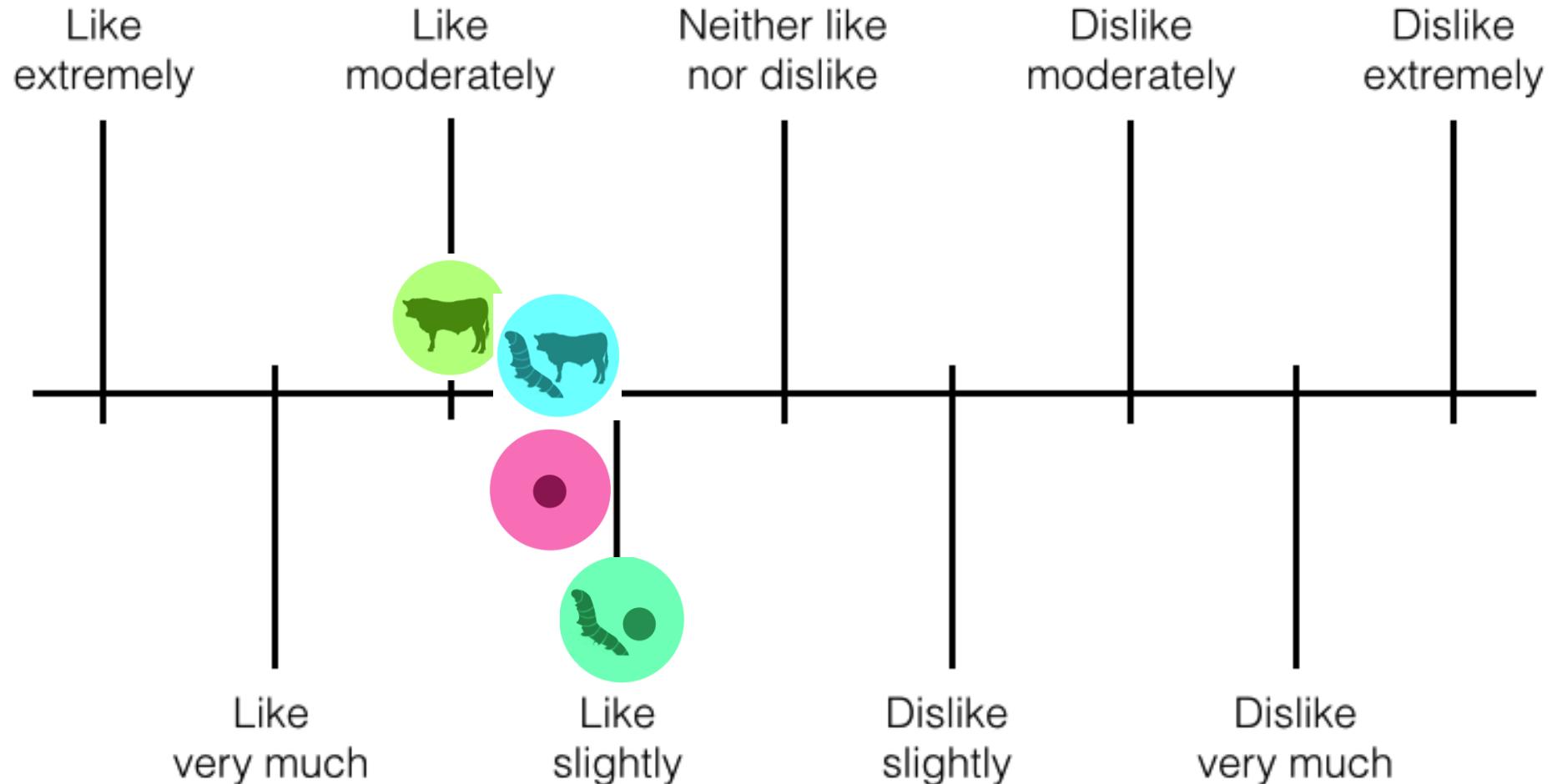
Yes  
No



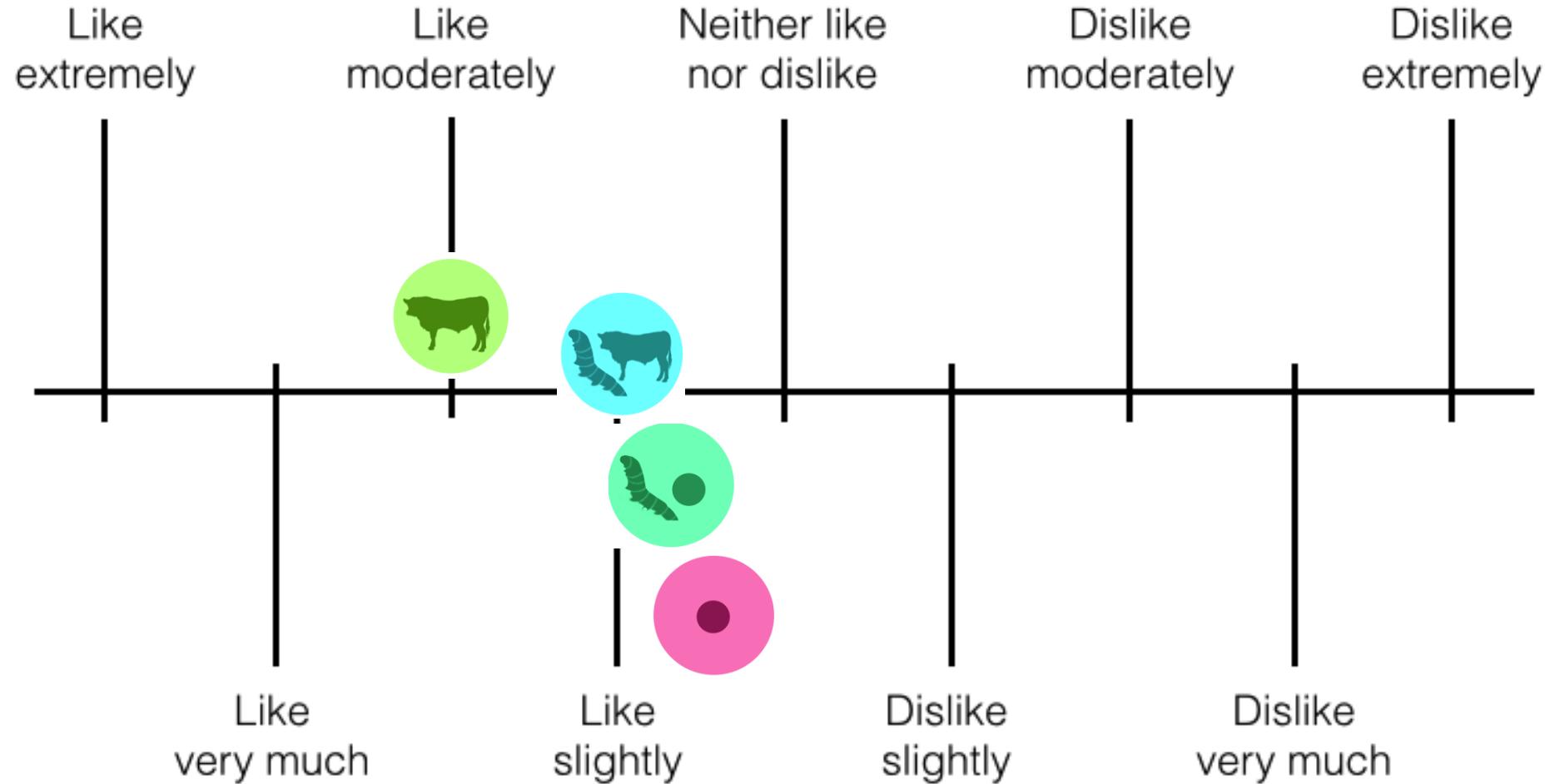
## Global appreciation



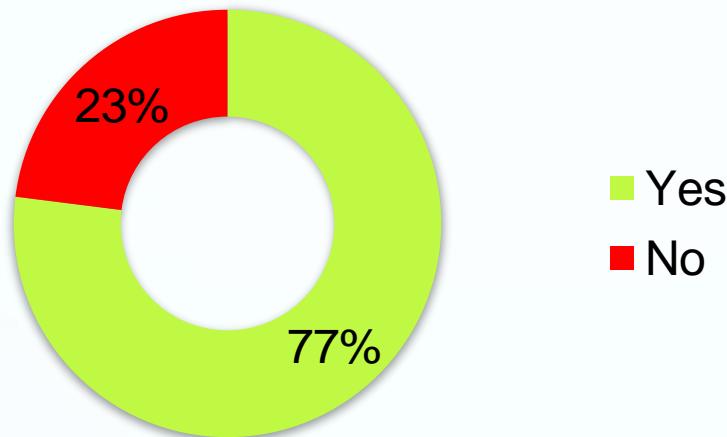
## Smell appreciation



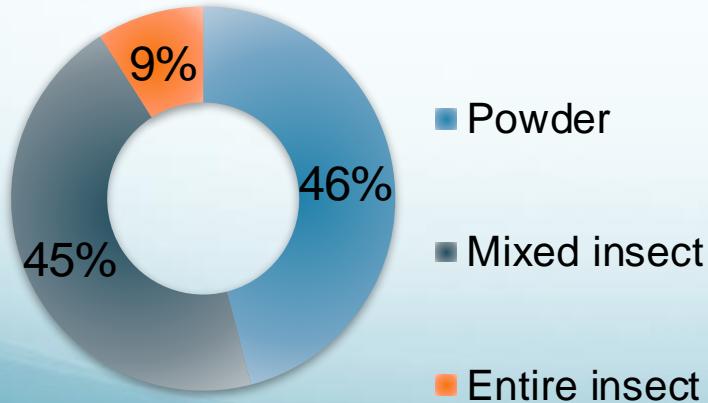
## Taste appreciation



Do you think we will eat insect in the future?



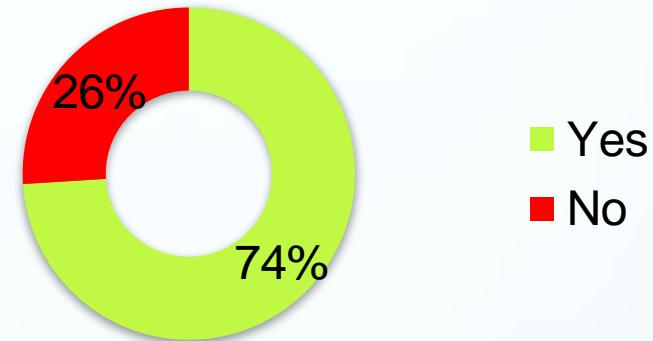
In what form ?



# Future of Entomophagy



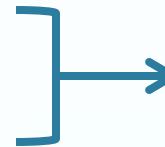
Are you open to insert insects in your food custom ?





# Hide or not insect ?

- Experiment was held in an college school
- Students from 17 to 18 y.o. were invited
- 135 students participated to this study and only 26 finally refused to taste preparations



## 3 Preparations



Mealworms breads



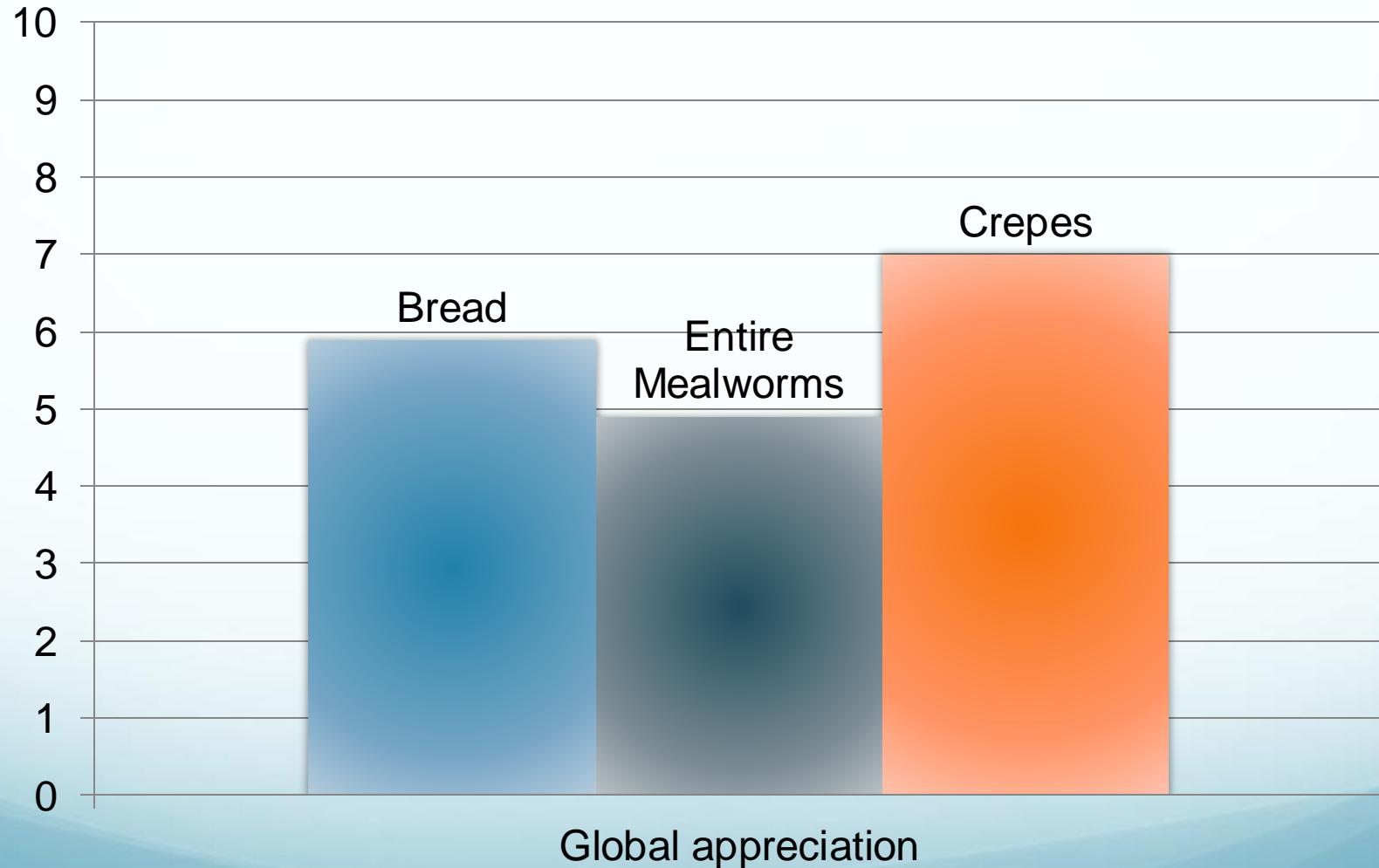
Mealworms



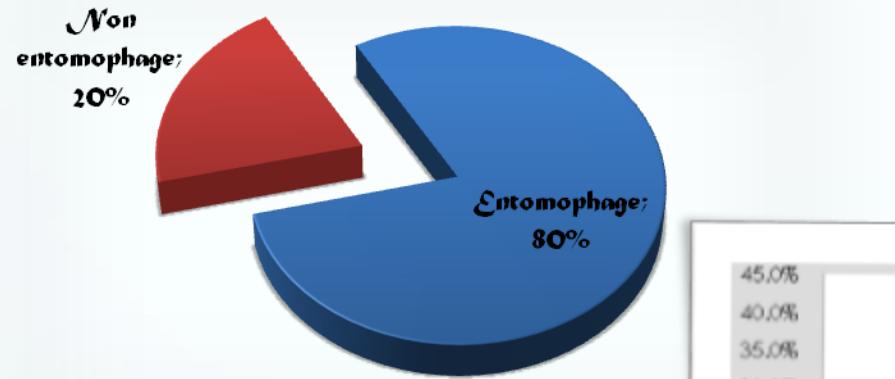
Mealworms crepes



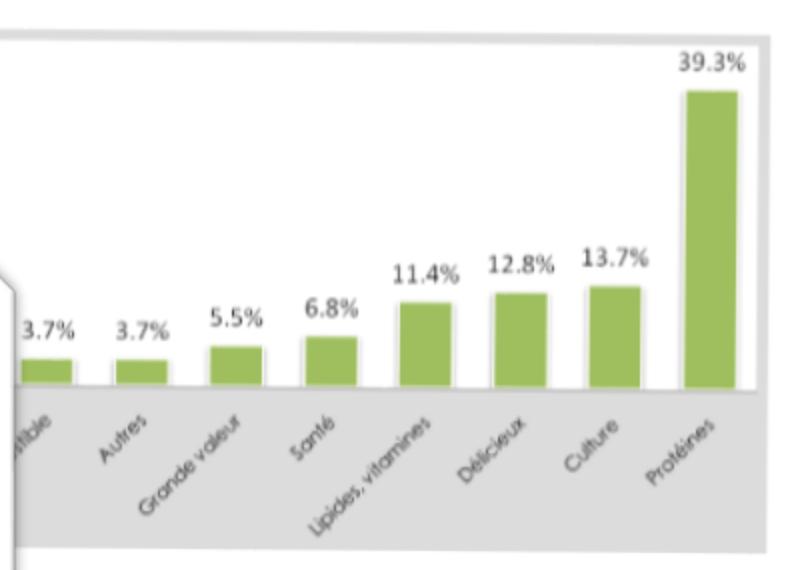
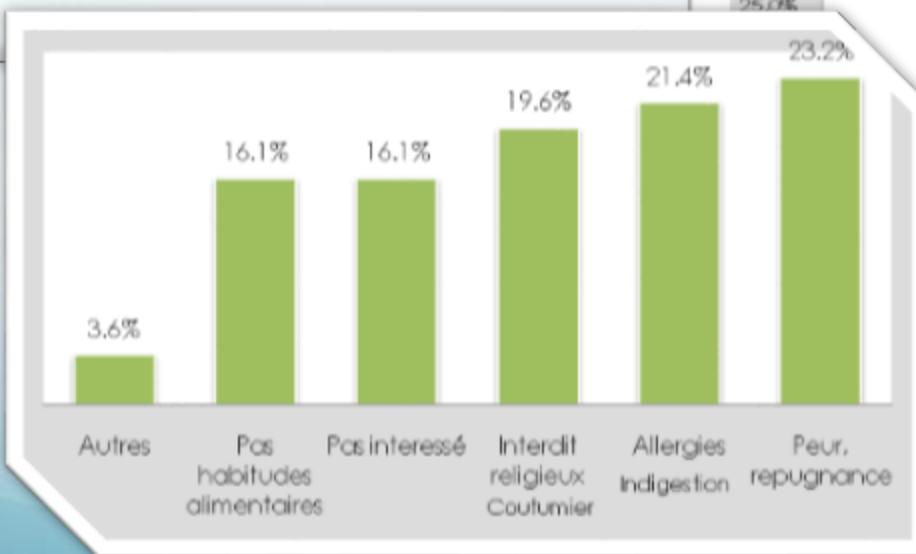
# Preliminary results



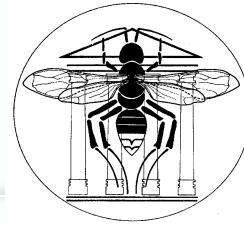
# Comportements Entomophages à Kinshasa



Motivations for insects as food



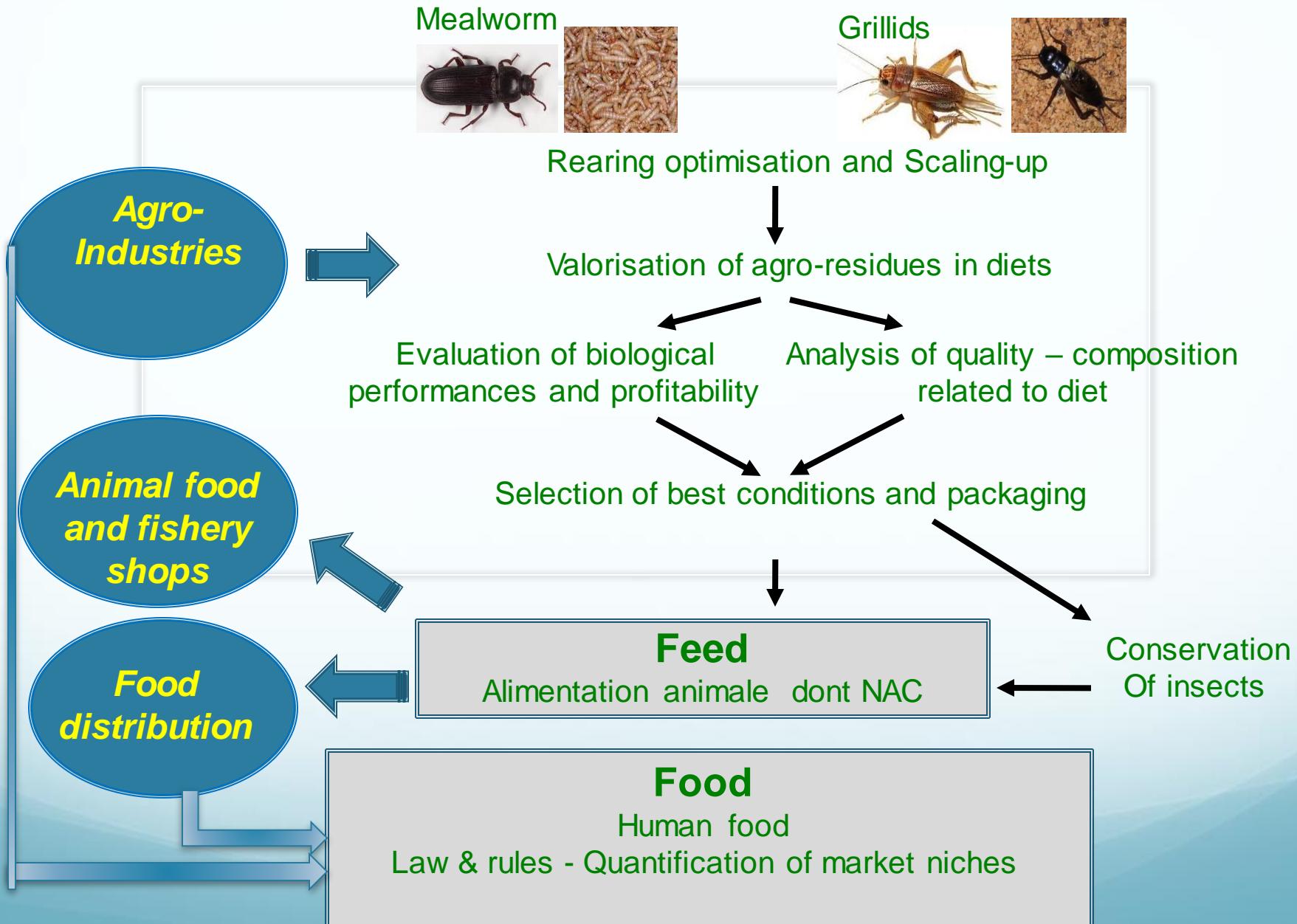
Nsevolo et al (2014).  
Annales de la Société Entomologique de France

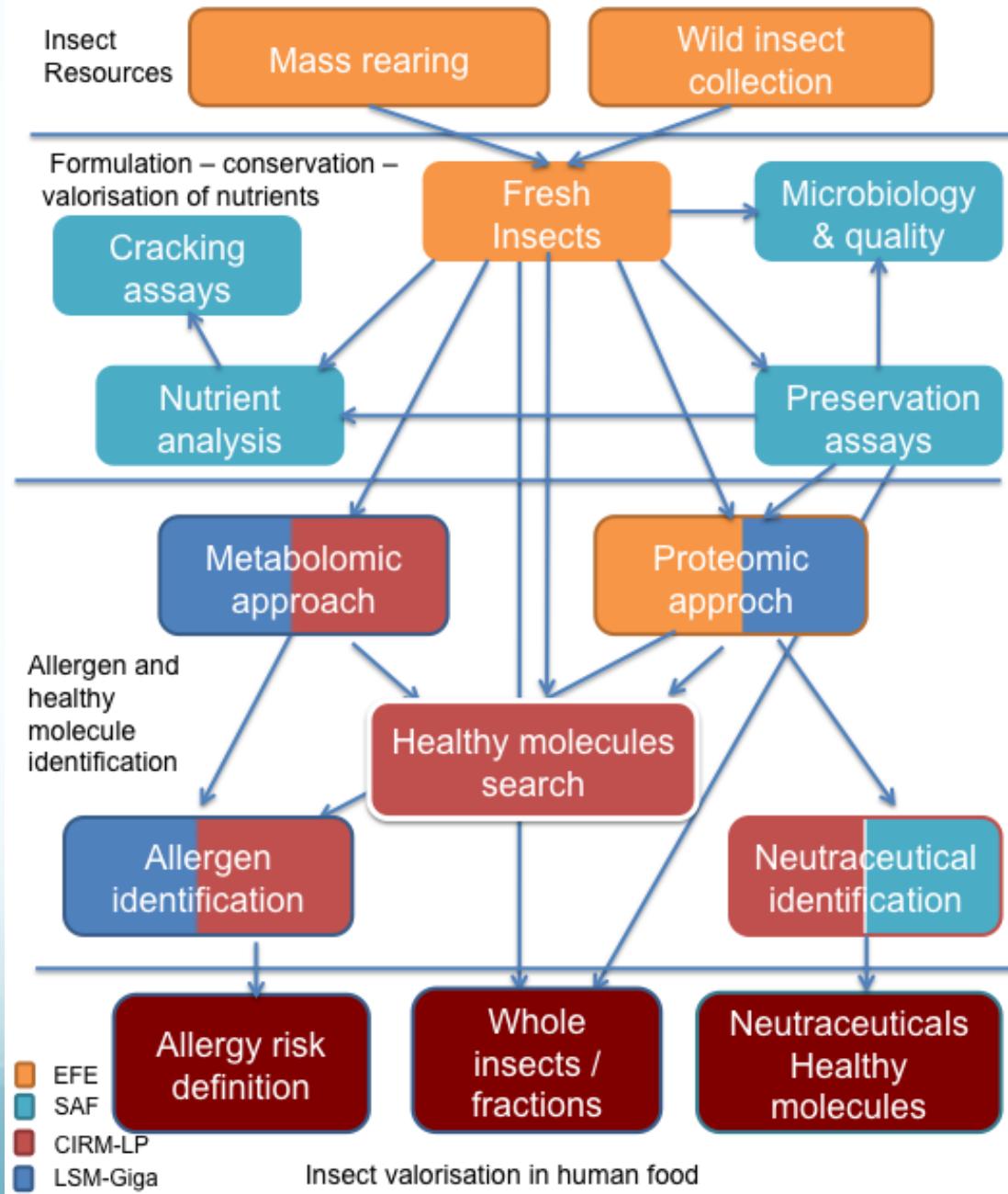


# Production durables d'insectes pour l'alimentation animale et humaine Entomofood

Spin-off de Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech –  
Université de Liège

# Strategies and developed activities





# Multidisciplinary approaches for edible insect use

at

# Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech

# University of Liege

# Take home message ?

- Promotion de l'entomophagie
- Ténébrions et criquets ciblés
- Insectes cachés : mixés ou en poudre
- Préparations à base d'insectes bien acceptées



# Livre de recettes d'insectes

## “Six pattes et si délicieux”

Caparros Megido Rudy

r.caparros@ulg.ac.be

<http://www.gembloux.ulg.ac.be/entomologie-fonctionnelle-et-evolutive/>

