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CHEMICAL SENSES IN FEEDING, BELONGING, AND SURVIVING

Or, Are You Going to Eat That?

Paul A. S. Breslin
*Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
and the Monell Chemical Senses Center*



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Paul A. S. Breslin
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and The Monell Chemical Senses Center

Author for correspondence: breslin@monell.org

Abstract: This Element looks at the physiological and social roles of taste and the proximal chemical senses. First, how we perceive food and people when we contact them is discussed. These perceptions help us identify what we are eating and with whom we are present and serves as an analysis of the complex scene. Second, the influence of taste in food choice, metabolism, and nutrition is considered. Next, the impact of taste and the proximal chemical senses in social interactions is examined, including social eating. Then, the role of taste and the proximal chemical senses in emotion is explored.

Keywords: taste, smell, feeding, sex, emotion

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Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 The Chemical Senses	1
3 Perception	3
4 Nutrition	11
5 Social Interactions	16
6 Emotions	25
7 Summary	30
Glossary	31
References	34