



### Ants Milking Aphids Part 1

An ant "milking" an aphid and getting honeydew.\*\*

Certain species of aphid (a sap sucking insect mostly known for being a garden pest) have formed mutualistic relationships with ants in which the aphids excrete a sweet honeydew as they eat that the ants "milk" from the rear of their abdomen.

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a8/Ant\\_Receive\\_Honeydew\\_from\\_Aphid.jpg/300px-Ant\\_Receive\\_Honeydew\\_from\\_Aphid.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a8/Ant_Receive_Honeydew_from_Aphid.jpg/300px-Ant_Receive_Honeydew_from_Aphid.jpg)

\*\* <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikijunior:Bugs/Aphid>

June 04 29, 2012 7:15 PM



### Ants Milking Aphids Part 2

If aphids fall or are knocked off the plant by water the ants dutifully run down, pick them up and carry them back up and place them on the stem so they can continue eating sap and producing tasty, tasty honeydew.\*\*

[http://538357.cache1.evolutionhosting.com/antsandaphids/ants\\_aphids\\_sugar.jpg](http://538357.cache1.evolutionhosting.com/antsandaphids/ants_aphids_sugar.jpg)

\*\* <http://drewblaisdell.tumblr.com/>

June 04 29, 2012 7:20 PM