



Botanical Angst

DISINTERESTED SCIENCE?

Vegetarians and vegans avoid eating animal products, and many may feel superior nutritionally, intellectually, and even morally for doing so. However, how is eating plants better than eating meat or dairy? One argument is that they don't want animals to suffer, to feel pain. But what if plants do feel pain? Pain has evolved in life forms because it has survival value. If something doesn't hurt, you don't know something is wrong and can't fix it. We already know plants chemically communicate, so how do we know plants have not evolved the capability to feel pain?

Vegetarians and vegans do not know; they just believe plants feel no pain. They have to eat something, and this belief salves their conscience. If some of these people happen to be botanical researchers, they have an incentive to fudge their research. What about disinterested science? If it's experimentally established that plants feel pain, maybe they could eat rocks. Oh wait, rocks used to be pets.