

POPULAR SCIENCE

Saving a Scorched Earth

6 Spectacular Technologies to Halt Global Warming

Deep Inside the Navy's Secret Spy Sub

+ The Dangerous Folly of Bunker-Busting Nukes

+ The Banana Battles Extinction

YOU 2.0

At the Intersection of Technology and the Body

Call me reactionary, but when insect repellent melts the fabric of my rain jacket, burns through my fishing line, and has the potential to cause seizures, well, that's not the bug juice for me. I don't care if the EPA still says DEET-based repellents are (mostly) safe—I'm



HERBAL ARMOR INSECT REPELLENT

\$5;
allterrainco.com
TECH: Natural bug juice
DOES IT WORK?
No bites yet

sticking to all-natural Herbal Armor, the only DEET-free skeeter guard I've found that works.

In my deep-woods trials it's kept away gnats, black-flies and all other biting vermin using nothing more potent than geranium, citronella and three other natural oils to mask your body's carbon dioxide emissions, which is what attracts the bugs. Compare that with DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), used by one third of the U.S. population every year: The EPA says you shouldn't wear DEET repellent under clothes, it warns to wash it off as soon as you can, and it will not allow labels to claim that DEET is safe for children. Oh, and Canada has outlawed concentrations higher than 30 percent.

Even if the occasional kamikaze bug slipped through a chink in Herbal Armor (though none did for me), I'd still prefer its nontoxic mix of lemon-grass, peppermint and herbs. —STEVE CASIMIRO

US \$3.99 CAN \$4.99
AUGUST 2005 POPSCI.COM

