

The Jewel Wasp and the Cockroach

The female parasitoid jewel wasp uses its cockroach victim as a nursery for its young, guiding the roach back to her nest, where her larva will feed on the cockroach until adulthood.



The female jewel wasp stings the cockroach twice—first in the thorax to temporarily paralyze the roach's front legs, and then in the head, where the wasp injects its venom into a specific area of the brain. This impairs the roach's ability to initiate movement.

The wasp then grabs the cockroach's antenna and guides it back to her nest.



There she lays an egg on the cockroach and seals them both inside the nest.



After the wasp larva hatches, it feeds on the cockroach for several days before pupating in its abdomen, emerging as an adult a month later.



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