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Female Insect Carries Around Own Sperm Just In Case

 **Lane Moore** — Meet the **female insect** who is able to use her own sperm to procreate — which is quickly causing a serious shortage of males:



The female scale insect (*Icerya purchasi*) is an independent woman. She carries her own sperm-harbored in tissue passed down through the generations-so she doesn't need a male to have her babies. Scientists have long believed that this unique procreation strategy-scale insects are the only hermaphroditic insects and the only animal in the world to employ such a sperm packet-is harmful to the female, as the "sperm packet" consumes resources in her body that she could otherwise devote to making more eggs.

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 **mordicai** Sat 16 Jul 2011 11:53 AM

Sure it costs more calories, but think of how many calories having an independent male costs, with all the resource-burning that entails!

 **SubvertAParadigm** @mordicai

LOL! All that housework, and sex, and sammich-makin'...

 **mordicai** @SubvertAParadigm

No, I actually meant-- well, like, biologically. Sure it costs calories to have an extra "organ", but a separate member of the species costs even more, because they have all the rest of the organs, too.

 **SubvertAParadigm** @mordicai

I was only kidding...

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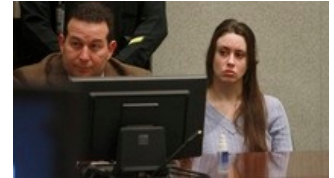


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