



Updated one minute ago

- HOME
- SUBMIT PROGRAM
- STORE
- ADVERTISE
- HELP
- FEEDBACK
- BACKEND
- NEWS ARCHIVE
- ENGLISH BOARD
- FORUM



Product Description Best Deals Chitika | eMiniMalls

**The Sims™ 2 for Windows**  
amazon.co.uk

- WINDOWS
- GAMES
- DRIVERS
- HANDHELD
- MAC
- LINUX
- MOBILE
- NEWS

- LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY
- SCIENCE ARTICLES
- ENTERTAINMENT
- EDITORIALS

- Latest news
- Daily Gadget
- Softpedia Opinions
- News Categories

## Play the Markets

Use play or real money..signup free Trade the world markets today!

[www.gnutrade.com](http://www.gnutrade.com)

[Ads by Google](#) - [Advertise on this site](#)

BOOKMARK SOFTPEDIA

GO

ADVANCED SEARCH >>

Softpedia Reviews

Welcome!

Hello, Guest

[Login](#) if you have a Softpedia.com account.

Otherwise, [register](#) for one.

### Ads by Google

#### Watch TV Online

Enjoy over 2500 Channels on your PC TV Shows, News, Movies, Sports [visit site >](#)

#### BitDefender Antivirus

Guaranteed detection and removal of all viruses. PC World Best Buy! [visit site >](#)

#### SIPfoundry

A Free Open Source IP PBX 100% SIP Compatible. Download now! [visit site >](#)

#### Tracking PCs since 1990

Audits Windows, Mac and Linux PCs. Free 30 day full evaluation. [visit site >](#)

#### New DVD Ripper Software

Rip & Copy Any DVD Movie to A Blank CD or DVD. Keep DVD Quality. \$24.98 [visit site >](#)

#### Hand Held Product (HHP)

Low price barcode scanners/readers from Hand Held Product (HHP) [visit site >](#)

## More Females Because Sisters Kill Their Brothers

Category: [SOFTPEDIA NEWS](#) :: [Science](#) :: [Nature](#)

Not such an altruistic behavior in parasitoid wasps

By: Stefan Anitei, Science Editor

### Ads by Google

[Bees and Wasps](#)

[Kill Insects](#)

[Ant Kill](#)

[Wasp Nest](#)



[Enlarge picture](#)

That's a real sacrifice: a lot of work and no sex at all...

The social insects, like bees, wasps, ants or termites, offer some of the most interesting examples of altruism in the natural world: the sterile individuals from the workers' cast renounce to their own reproduction for the greater good of the colony (this sounds like a communist speech...).

But researches have proven that this sacrifice is not so voluntary: in most cases, the queen acts in this direction employing pheromones or physical activity.

A new research carried out in Canada and the United Kingdom adds another sinister side to the so-called altruism, in the case of a peculiar group of parasitic wasps. For a long time now, the role played by the sterile "soldier" larvae in polyembryonic parasitoid wasps has puzzled the researchers. They have been regarded as having a protective role for their broodmates as a whole, by guarding them against the attack by other species of parasitoids.

More recently, the soldiers were supposed to be mainly involved in a battle of the sexes, against their own siblings.

But the new research has rejected the brood-benefit hypothesis, favoring more the idea that their behavior is altogether spiteful. "We found that the bizarre genetics of these wasps means that brothers value their sisters more than sisters value their brothers, and so if sterile larvae function for the good of the group then it should be brothers who more willingly make the sacrifice. Alternatively, if the sterile larvae are used by each sex to wage war against the other sex, then it should be primarily females who are interested in killing their brothers. As it happens, most sterile larvae are female, suggesting a primary role in sex conflict", said Andy Gardner, from St John's College, Oxford University.

This discovery also explains the commonly unbalanced sex ratios in these insects, where females are much more numerous than males, due to sex differences in killing behavior.

- Diqq this!
- Submit to Slashdot
- Add to del.icio.us
- Submit to Reddit
- Add to Technorati favorites
- Furl
- PDF

**MORE RELATED ARTICLES:** [Males That Break Off Their Penises to Tap the Female's Vagina](#) [Paralyzing Spray Used in Female Combat](#) [Dictatorship and Not Voluntary Altruism Characterizes Insect Colonies](#) [Insect Brain Changed as They Evolved to More Social](#) [Parasitoid Wasps Could Be Future's Weapon Against Crop Insect Pests](#) [All Women Get Lower Self Esteem After Watching Models](#) [The Oldest Bee](#) [How Can a Parasite Influence the Evolution of a Host Species When it Does Not Even Infect it?](#) [Insect Family Tree Changed](#)

**TAGS:** [wasp colony](#) [larvae](#) [sex](#)

12th of April 2007, 13:28 GMT | Copyright (c) 2007 Softpedia | Contact: [newseditor@softpedia.com](mailto:newseditor@softpedia.com)

Read by 146 user(s) | Rating: ★★★★★ | 1 vote(s) so far | Cast your vote:

[Comments](#) | [Link here](#) | [Subscribe](#)

[Print](#) | [Send to friend](#)

[Today's News](#) | [Yesterday's News](#)

Search:

**Related Products:**

- [The Movies: Stunts & Effects \(PC\)](#) - Wal-Mart
- [kill.switch \(Xbox\)](#) - Wal-Mart
- [LaCie d2 Hard Drive Extreme with Triple Interface \(250GB\)](#) - ..

[What's this?](#)

**TODAY'S HEADLINES:** [Gravity Probe B Proves Space-Time Warps](#) [Poisonous Thorny Starfish Is Destroying the Coral Reefs](#) [The First Human Cyborgs Are Here!](#) [Low In Utero Testosterone Levels Determine Homosexual Behavior in Males](#) [Freezing Nanoscale Metal Drops](#) [Hot Neutron Star Explains Superburst Frequency](#) [Women Use Their Whole Brain, Men Just Half of It](#) [Lab-on-a-Chip: Microreactor Cooker](#)

 [More Females Because Sisters Kill Their Brothers](#) - USER OPINIONS

We are sorry, there are no opinions available for this article.

 **SHARE YOUR OPINION ABOUT [More Females Because Sisters Kill Their Brothers](#)**

Only registered and logged in users can post comments.  
Click here to [login](#), or [register](#).

 **DO YOU WANT TO CONTACT US?**

If you have some comments or you want to send us some information you can send us an [email](#) directly to [newsen@softpedia.com](mailto:newsen@softpedia.com). You can use the form below for the same purpose.

**Your full name:**  (at least 3 characters)

**Your email address:**  (at least 5 characters)

**Message subject:**  (at least 5 characters)

**Message text:**  
(at least 10 characters)

**Type in the result:**  

© 2001 - 2007 Softpedia. All rights reserved.  
Softpedia™ and Softpedia™ logo are registered trademarks of SoftNews NET SRL.

[Copyright Information](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Softpedia](#) | [Update your software](#) | [Archive](#)

