



The Unexpected Beauty of a Wasp

Stinger | Although the stinger is a small part of the wasp's body, it is the most memorable part (at least to us). It works much like a doctor's hypodermic needle, but instead of bringing us healing or relief, the wasp injects a painful venom to defend itself and its nest.

Super eyes | The wasp's compound eyes capture images from all angles and zip the information to its brain. All that information allows the wasp to fly quickly, hover—and sting when necessary.

Wasp fur | For some wasps, the exoskeleton (outer shell) grows hair-like setae (SEE-tee). While not at all like the hair on your head, many of these setae are great at sensing touch. Other setae can gather up pollen and spread it to other plants.

Mouth mashers | The jagged mandibles on the wasp's mouth work wonders on wood, which the insect can chew into a paper-like pulp to build its nest. Good thing those scary chewers are micro-sized!