



## Ichneumonid Wasps (parasitoids)

### What to look for

Ichneumonids pupate inside their host, sometimes in distinctive striped or colored cocoons. The maggot-like larvae may be cream or greenish. Look for a single silken cocoon on or near a pest larva or pupa.



*Ichneumonid wasp emerged from an eastern tiger swallowtail pupa.*

### Appearance

Adults range from 1/8 inch to 5 inches long, including their stinger-like, egg-laying ovipositor.

Their bodies are tan, brown, or black, and their wings may be shaded with blue and brown.

**Host types attacked**  
larvae and pupa of moths, butterflies, beetles and flies

**Crops protected**  
sweet corn  
cole crops

**Pests attacked**  
Larvae and pupae of moths, beetles, flies and butterflies  
diamondback moth  
cutworms  
cabbage maggot



*Cosmos Flowers*

### Ichneumonid Wasps

Ichneumonid wasps are attracted to the food source of their host pests, primarily vegetable crops, and to sources of available nectar, such as shallow, open-faced flowers, daisy-family flowers, and angelica.



*Ichneumonid pupa*

### Parasitoids

Parasitoids are insects that prey on other insects and thus can be of benefit to vegetable growers. Their eggs or larvae are usually found in or on a single insect host. The immature parasitoid develops within or on its host, ultimately killing the pest. Most parasitoids are wasps or flies.



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