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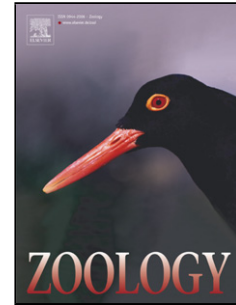
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REVIEW

The insect spermatheca: an overview

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Highlights

- The insect spermatheca receives, maintains, and releases sperm to fertilize eggs.
- Most insects have one spermatheca, although the number varies among taxa.
- The morphology of the spermatheca varies according to insect species.
- The spermatheca has the following parts: duct, reservoir and spermathecal gland.
- The sperm are nourished by secretions from both male accessory glands and spermathecal glands.

Abstract

In the female insect, the spermatheca is an ectodermal organ responsible for receiving, maintaining, and releasing sperm to fertilize eggs. The number and morphology of spermathecae vary according to species. Within the spermathecal lumen, substances in the

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