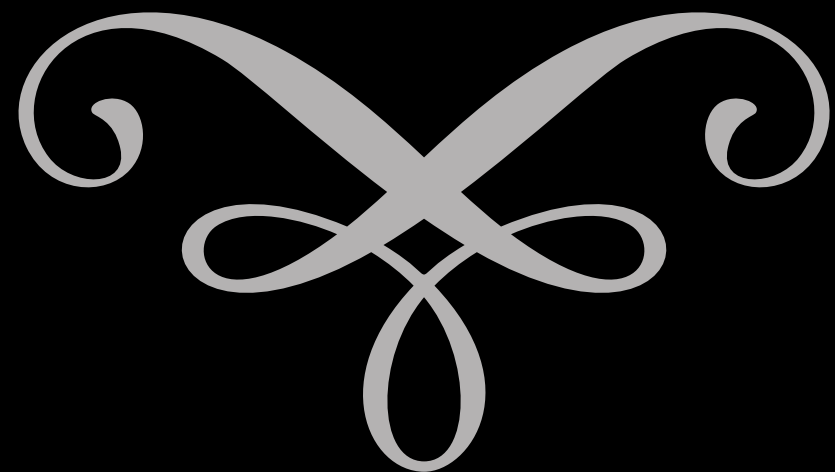


Often Overlooked, Misunderstood, or Generally Disrespected Animals



Not all animals are here to **make us feel good**, or appeal to whatever it is that makes us believe **kittens are adorable**.

But if we take the time to **look closely** and learn, we discover that "weird and **creepy**" can also be "amazing and **wonderful**."

Wasps are

dedicated workers

loyal siblings

sacrificial parents

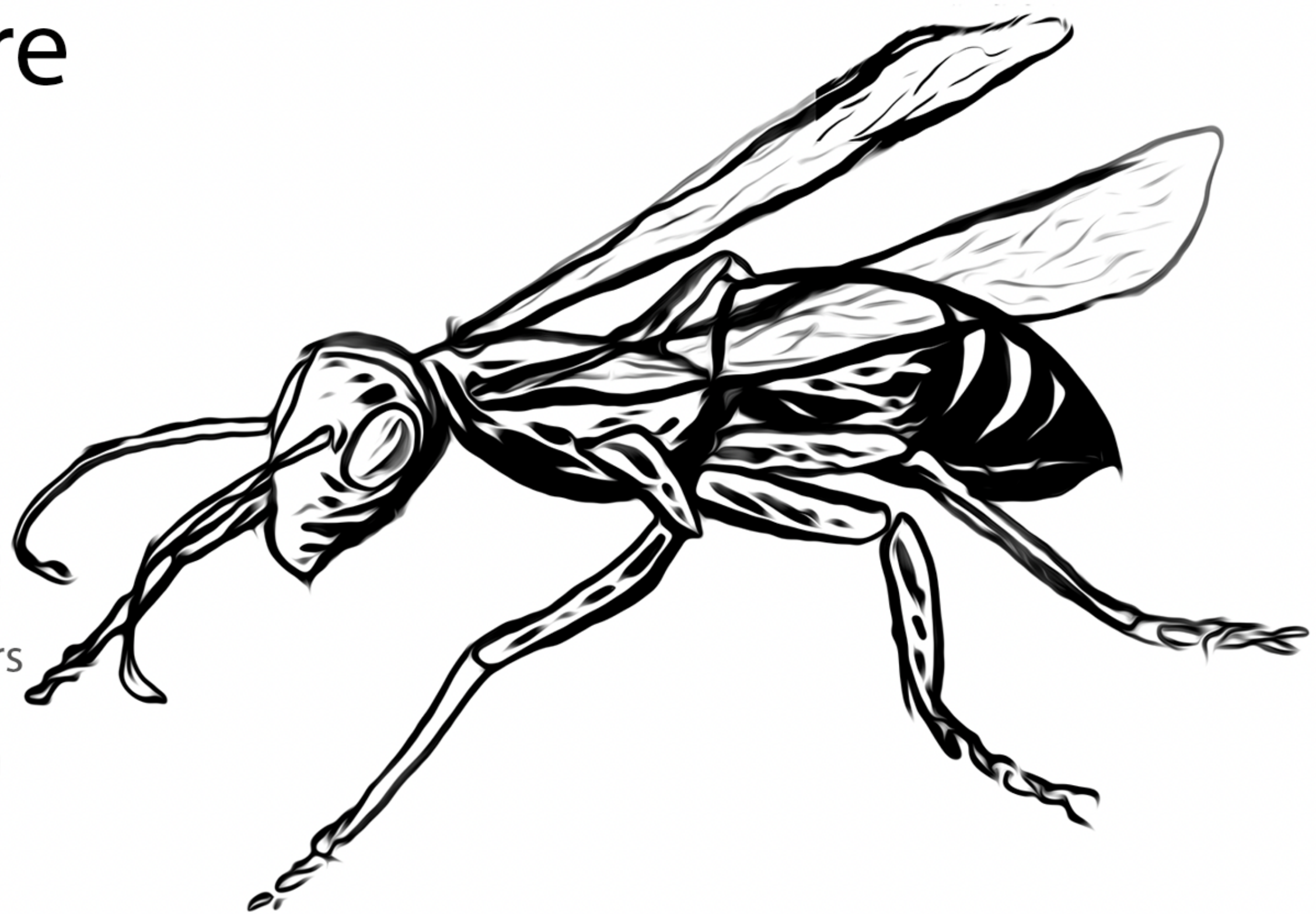
helpful neighbors

amazing engineers

tireless gardeners

beautiful artists

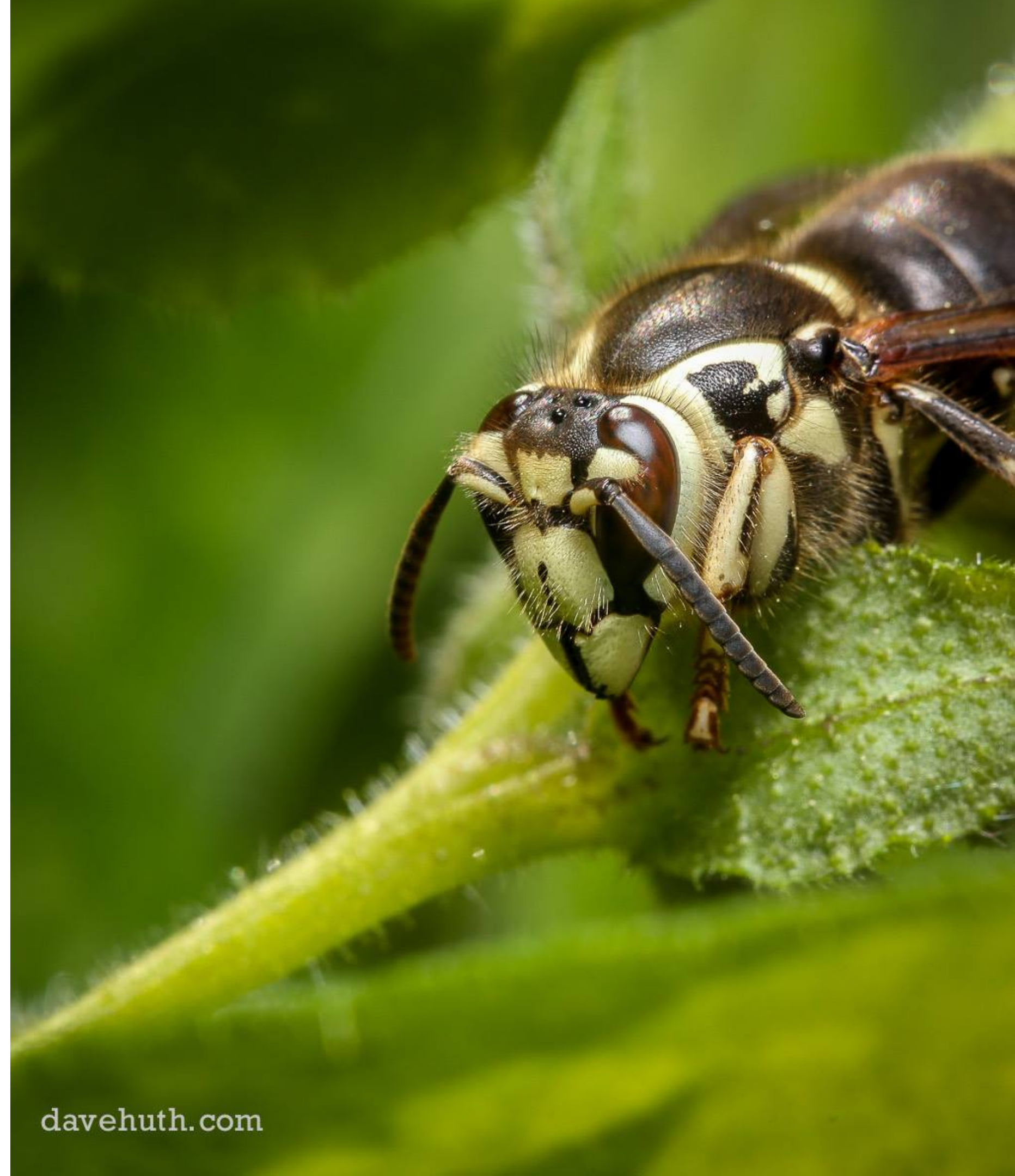
powerful allies







Giant Ichneumon Wasp
(*Megarhyssa macrurus*)



Spiders can

understand their surroundings

recognize each other

protect their children

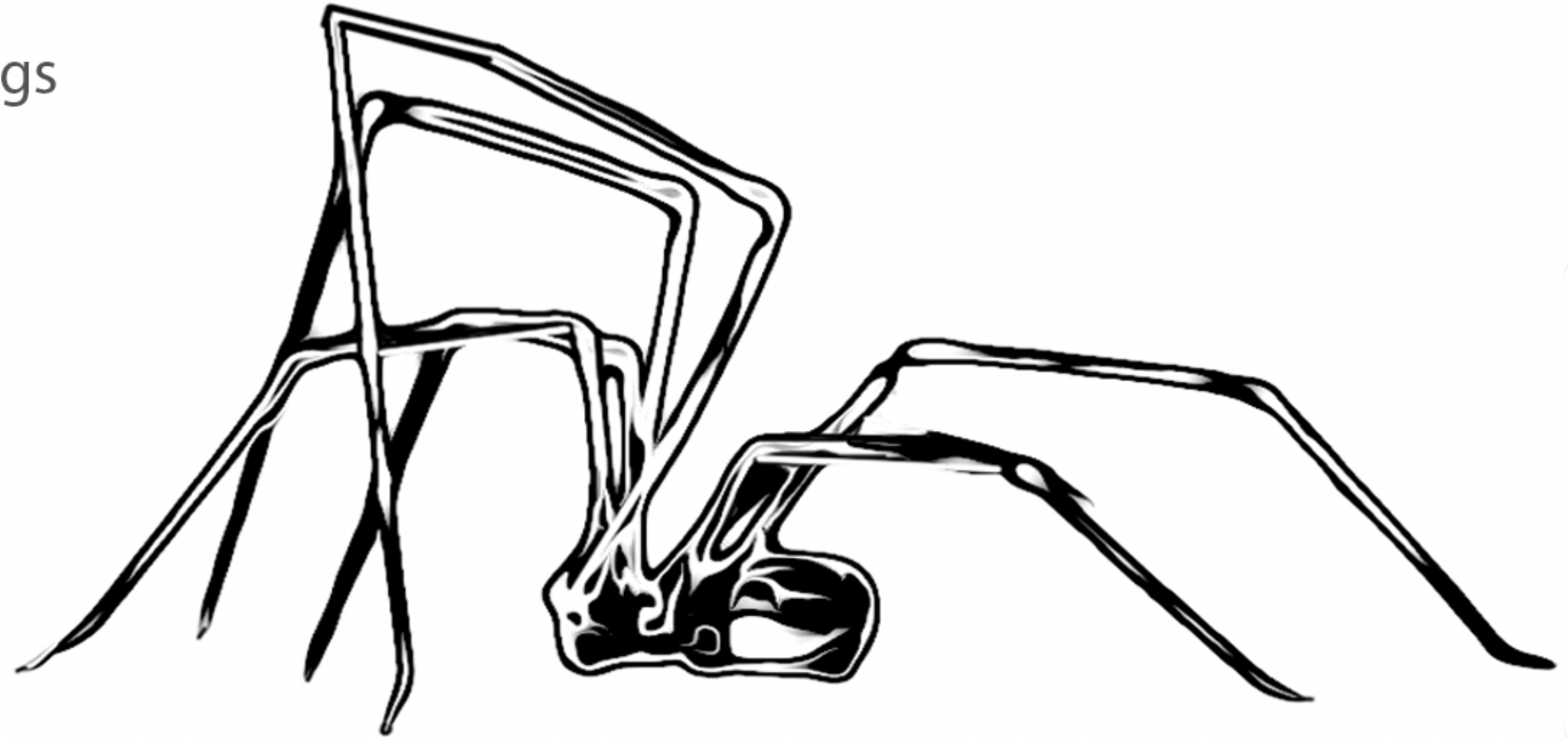
create beautiful objects

coordinate complex tasks

engineer amazing tools

perform hilarious dances

defend our homes





Orb Weaver
(family Araneidae)





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Flies are important for

pollinating flowers

recycling nutrients

nourishing larger animals

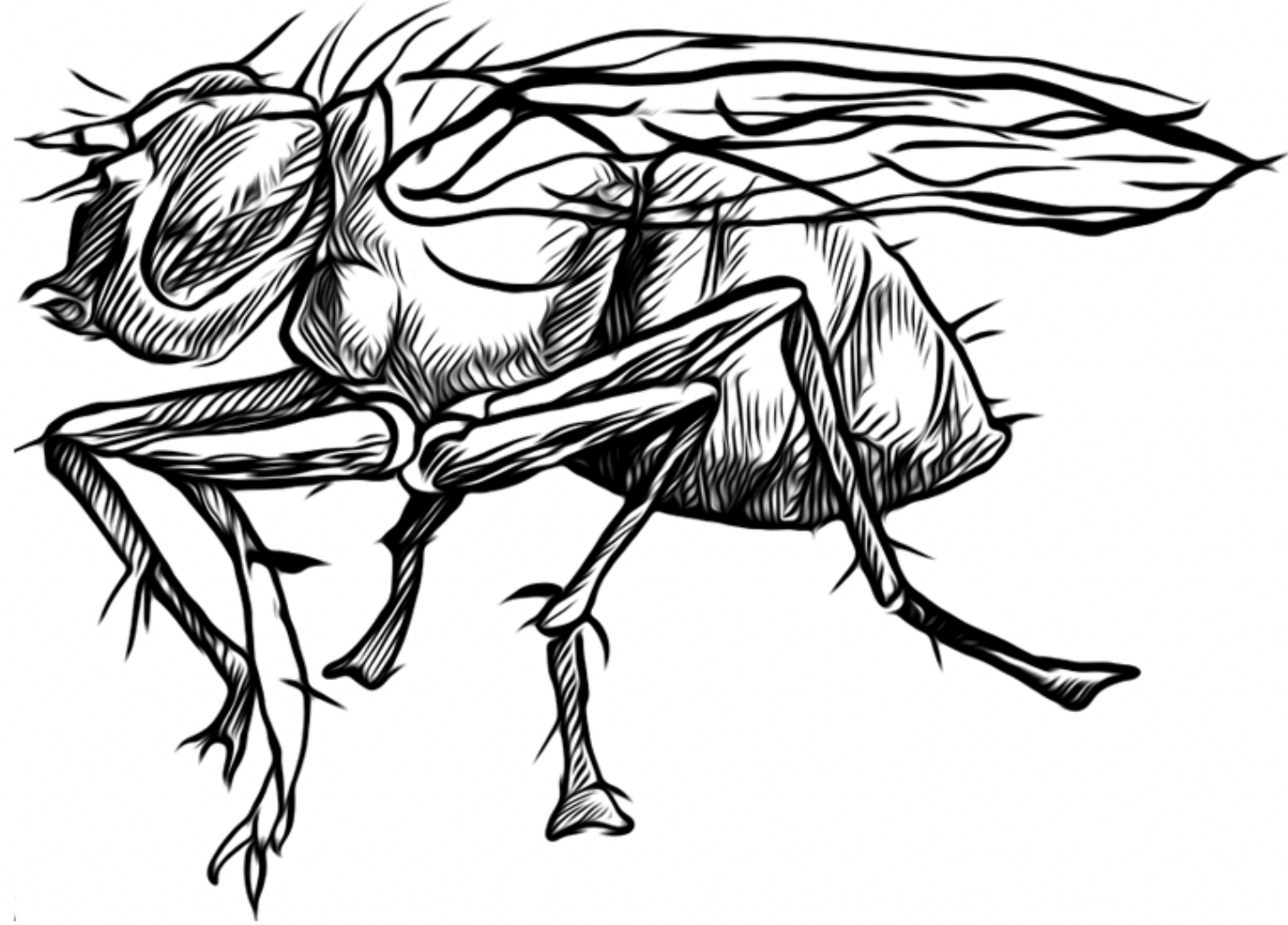
transporting smaller animals

attracting birds

sparkling and swooping around

protecting plants

cleaning up messes





Wasp
(*Vespidae*)



Fly
(*Syrphidae*)



Wasp
(*Vespidae*)



Fly
(*Syrphidae*)

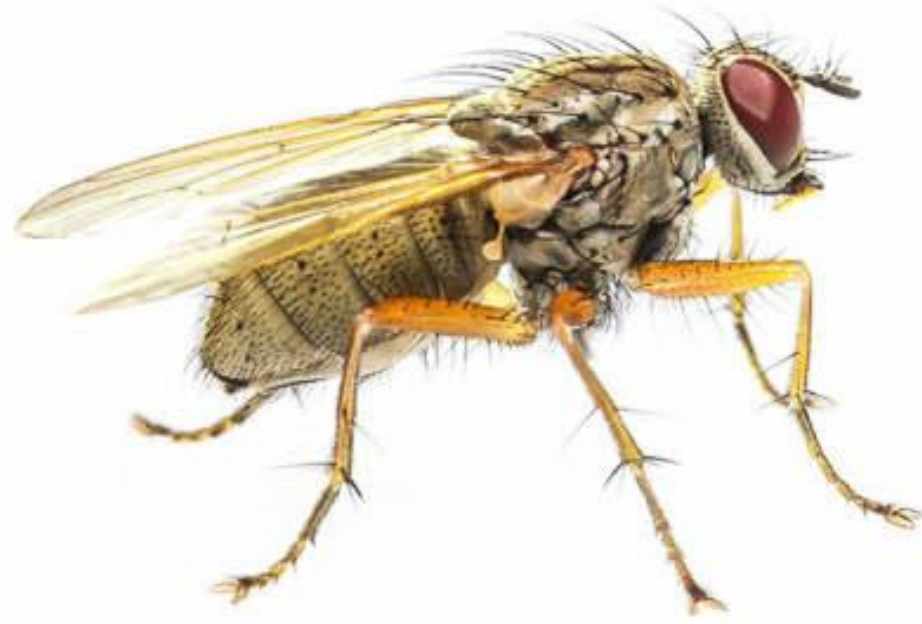
**Wasps and
Wasp-mimicking Flies**
(families *Vespidae* and
Syrphidae)



Wasp
(*Vespidae*)



Fly
(*Syrphidae*)



Weird-looking Caterpillars

don't bite people, or have stingers

blow scientists' minds

provide feasts for baby birds

look bizarrely fascinating up close

are a sign of a healthy ecosystem

waddle adorably

**become some of the most elegant
and beautiful creatures on Earth**



Io Moth
Automeris io



Larva on food plant



Adult male



Adult female





Beetles are

strong and tough

delicious and nutritious to many animals

good at building ecosystems

good at cleaning up gross stuff

funny to watch

any shape, color, size, and texture you can think of

generally anxious about humans

very, very good





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Bees

are curious and clever

avoid humans

communicate with each other

care and sacrifice for each other

try to avoid stinging anything

come in thousands of colors, patterns, shapes, and sizes

usually have fluffy butts and adorable googly eyes

literally make life possible







Ants are incredibly good at

feats of powerful strength

improving soil health

complex communication

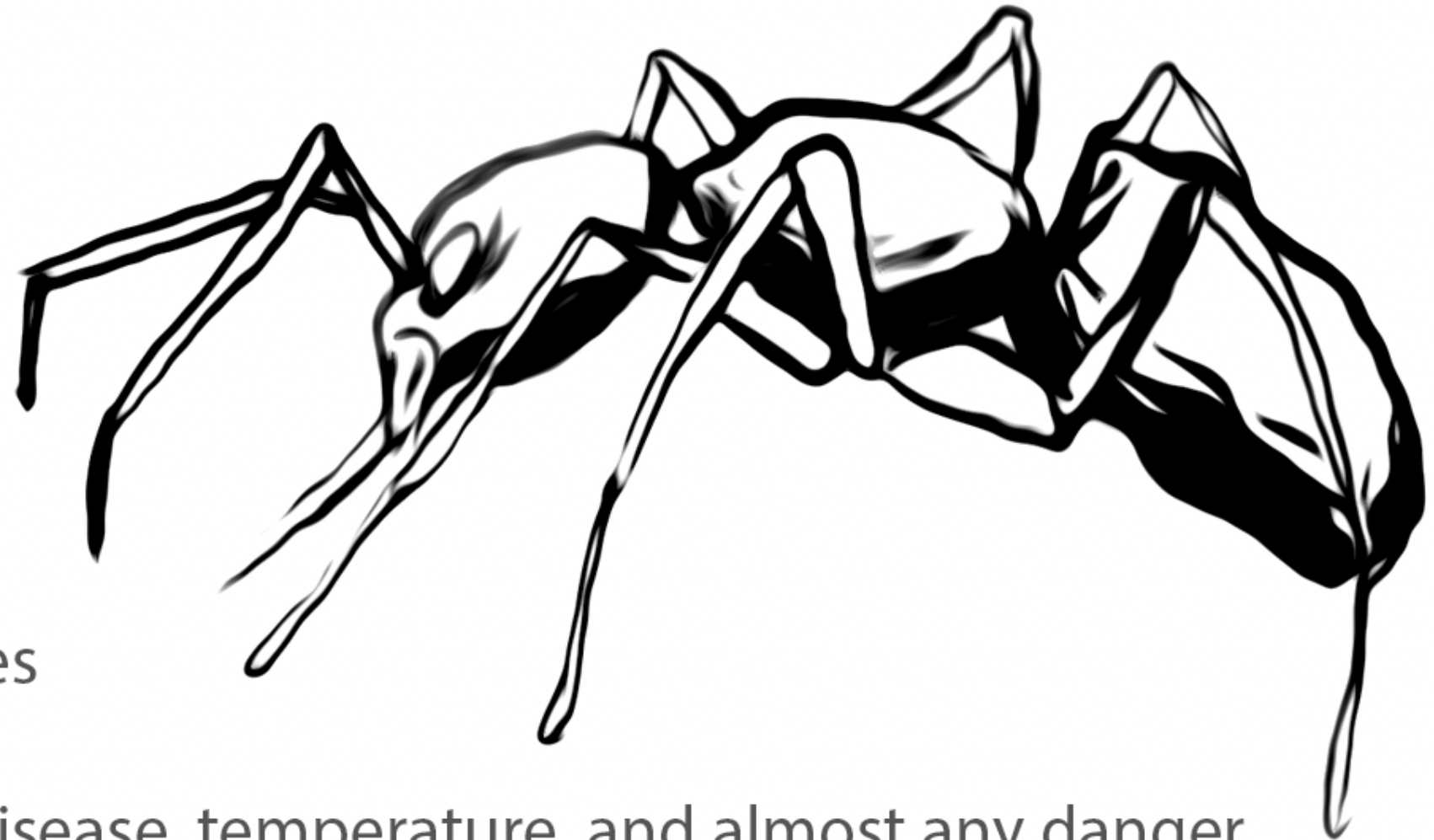
engineering social structures

defending their families and homes

defying gravity, enemies, floods, disease, temperature, and almost any danger

helping each other

**successfully improvising in the
face of unimaginable odds**





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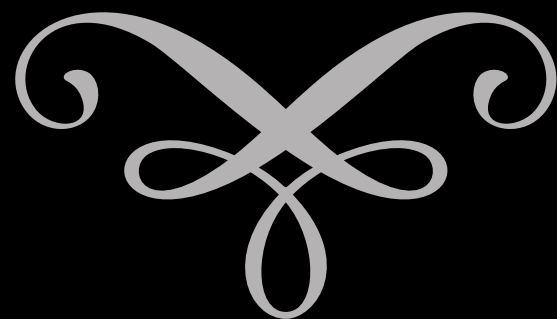


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