

List of animals that produce silk

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Silk is produced by a variety of animals, for different purposes, with various types being produced.

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Insects

- Silkworms produce silk when undergoing larval to adult metamorphosis.
- Raspy crickets produce silk to form nests.
- Honeybee and bumblebee larvae produce silk to strengthen the wax cells in which they pupate.^[1]
- Bulldog ants spin cocoons to protect themselves during pupation.^[1]
- Weaver ants use silk to connect leaves together to make communal nests.^[1]
- Hornets
- Silverfish
- Mayflies
- Thrips
- Leafhoppers produce silk nests under the leaves of the trees where they live, to protect them against predators.^[2]
- Beetles
- Lacewings
- Fleas
- Flies
- Midges

Other animals

- *Pinna nobilis* creates silk to bond itself to rocks. It is used to make sea silk.
- Various types of spiders make spider silk to weave their webs.
- Carp produce fibroin units, a component of silk, to attach their eggs to rocks.^[3]
- Goats have been genetically modified to produce milk containing extractable silk proteins.^[4]

References

1. "Bees Are The New Silkworms". ScienceDaily. Retrieved 2014-06-06.
2. "Silk production by the Australian endemic leafhopper Kahaono montana Evans (Cicadellidae: Typhlocybinae:

Dikraneurini) provides protection from predators - Gurr - 2011 - Australian Journal of Entomology - Wiley Online Library". Onlinelibrary.wiley.com. Retrieved 2014-07-09.

3. "Silk production and use in arthropods". Map of Life. Retrieved 2014-06-06.
4. Elices, M.; Guinea, G. V.; Plaza, G. R.; Karatzas, C.; Riekel, C.; Agulló-Rueda, F.; Daza, R.; Pérez-Rigueiro, J.; Guinea; Plaza; Karatzas; Riekel; Agulló-Rueda; Daza; Pérez-Rigueiro (2011). "Bioinspired Fibers Follow the Track of Natural Spider Silk". *Macromolecules*. **44** (5): 1166–1176. Bibcode:2011MaMol..44.1166E. doi:10.1021/ma102291m.

External links

- US National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, documentation about various animals that produce silk and why. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2658764/>)

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