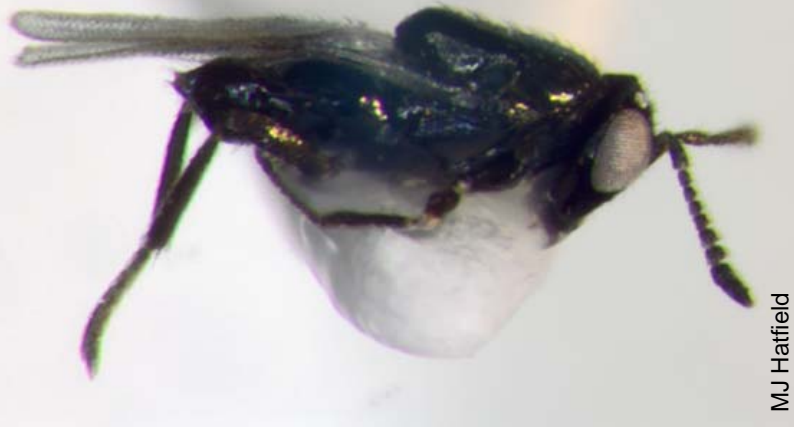


Encyrtidae: *Copidosoma* sp.



MJ Hatfield

The wasp deposits 1-2 eggs into the egg of the host (in this case the looper *Trichoplusia ni*). After the looper larva emerges, the wasp egg(s) begins to divide and becomes 1000 (or more) genetically identical eggs. When the looper larva reaches its 5th instar, the wasp eggs hatch. The looper delays pupation with extra instars which provides more food for the wasp larvae. The wasp larvae pupate inside the looper which dies before it pupates. Because these wasps stimulate the looper to have additional instars, this is a parasitoid that can contribute to more plant/crop injury.

http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/walker/ufbir/chapters/chapter_26.shtml



Wasp pupae

Trichoplusia ni, cabbage looper

