NATURAL BORN ‘KILLERS’

Venom in animals and plants offers treasure trove of cues and drugs to tackle many ailments

Nicole Liridon
George Kallianiotis/CNN

Dropping from bumble bees, espoused bodys or prickle-winning, venoms have served as invaluable tools in science. At least 20,000 species of insect are known to produce venoms, in addition to many other animals. These venoms have been used to develop new drugs that can be used to treat diseases ranging from cancer to pain.

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One example is the tsetse fly, which is responsible for transmitting the disease sleeping sickness to humans. Another is the spider, which is known to produce venom that can be used to treat pain.

Scientists are now studying the venom of these animals to develop new drugs that can be used to treat a variety of diseases.

ABOUT THE WRITERS

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POLYPIA PULPITURA

• The Brazilian antelope is a small antelope that is native to South America and is known for its rapid movement and agility.

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