



Electroreception in Caterpillars

Source: [TH](#)

Recent research revealed that **caterpillars** can **detect electric fields** through **setae** on their bodies, an adaptation known as **electroreception**.

- This sensory ability is predominantly found in **aquatic and amphibious species** but has now been observed in these **terrestrial insects**.
- Electroreception enables caterpillars to **sense approaching predators** by detecting **oscillating electric fields** generated by the flapping wings of insects like wasps.
- This sensory ability may have evolved as an **evolutionary response** to intense predation, complementing other sensory defences caterpillars employ.
- Potential interference from "**sensory pollution**," such as **electromagnetic frequencies** from power cables, could disrupt this delicate sensing mechanism, posing a new challenge to their survival.

Read more: [The Secret Lives of Insects](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/electroreception-in-caterpillars>



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