# Article information:

Cordyceps zombie fungus takes over ants' bodies
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/cordyceps-zombie-fungus-takes-over-ants>

# Article summary:

1. Ophiocordyceps unilateralis is a parasitic fungus found in tropical forests that infects ants and takes over their behavior.

2. The fungus feeds on the ant's innards until it is ready to disperse its spores, at which point it sends a fruiting body out through the base of the ant's head.

3. Researchers have identified over 200 species of Ophiocordyceps that can infect hosts from 10 insect orders, as well as spiders, though not all lead to behavioral manipulation.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article is generally reliable and trustworthy in its reporting of the Ophiocordyceps unilateralis fungus and its effects on ants. It provides detailed information about the fungus’s life cycle and how it affects ants, as well as other related species of fungi that affect other insects. The article also cites research from various sources to back up its claims, such as Pennsylvania State University and University of Central Florida researchers.

However, there are some potential biases in the article that should be noted. For example, the article does not explore any potential risks associated with this type of fungus or discuss any possible counterarguments to its claims. Additionally, while the article does mention traditional Tibetan and Chinese medicine using Ophiocordyceps sinensis for medicinal purposes, it does not provide any evidence for these claims or explore any potential risks associated with using this type of medicine.

In addition, while the article does provide some detail about how Ophiocordyceps unilateralis affects ants’ behavior, it does not present both sides equally; instead, it focuses primarily on how this particular species affects ants’ behavior without exploring other potential effects or implications for other species or ecosystems. Finally, while the article does cite research from various sources to back up its claims, there is no indication that these sources are unbiased or independent; thus readers should take care when evaluating these sources and their potential biases when considering the reliability of this article’s content.

# Topics for further research:

* Ophiocordyceps unilateralis effects on other species
* Potential risks associated with Ophiocordyceps unilateralis
* Traditional Tibetan and Chinese medicine using Ophiocordyceps sinensis
* Risks associated with using Ophiocordyceps sinensis medicine
* Implications of Ophiocordyceps unilateralis for other species and ecosystems
* Unbiased research sources on Ophiocordyceps unilateralis

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/3b4e397a181b0e74e7a8489911159512>