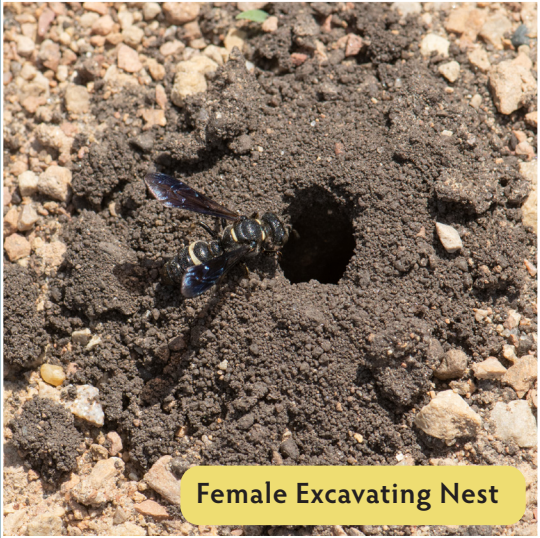


# WASP FACT SHEET

## *Cerceris fumipennis* Smoky-winged Beetle Bandit Wasp



Female Excavating Nest



Male Visiting Flowering Spurge



Female Perched at Nest Entrance



Male Visiting Mountain Mint

**Scientific Name:** *Cerceris fumipennis* (Crabronidae)

**Common Name:** Smoky-winged Beetle Bandit Wasp

**Range:** Eastern North America from eastern Minnesota south to eastern Texas, east to southern Maine and Florida. Also eastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and southeastern Nebraska.

**Biology:** This beetle wasp prefers to nest in compacted well-drained soil, usually bare ground. Frequently, this wasp's nests are found in baseball diamonds (see top photo, left). The excavated nest contains multiple cells and each is provisioned with approximately three to seven wood-boring beetles.

**Beneficial Insect:** In addition to hunting native wood-boring beetles, females hunt a number of introduced tree pests such as emerald ash borer, European oak borer, and goldspotted oak borer (also belonging to the family Buprestidae). And, after the emerald ash borer was first detected in North America, monitoring this wasp's prey at nesting sites provided researchers with a useful biosurveillance tool, enabling them to track the invasive insect's dispersal and range expansion.

**Prey:** Metallic wood-boring beetles (family Buprestidae).

**Common Native Nectar Plants:** New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), and spotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*).

**Activity:** April to October (south) and mid-June to late September (north).