

WASP FACT SHEET

Eumenes fraternus Fraternal Potter Wasp



Female Collecting Mud



Female Laying Egg In Nest Opening



Female with Captured Prey



Female Visiting Fleabane

Scientific Name: *Eumenes fraternus* (Vespidae)

Common Name: Fraternal Potter Wasp

Range: Eastern and Central North America. Minnesota east to southern Quebec and Maine, south to eastern Texas and Florida. Also scattered populations in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Biology: This predatory wasp constructs free-form, jug-shaped mud nests attached to plant leaves, flower stalks, or less often human-built structures. To construct the mud nest, the female typically collects soil and water separately, combines the two to make mud, then applies multiple layers of mud to form the nest enclosure. Each nest is provisioned with multiple caterpillars. Females construct multiple nests, often clusters of individual nests attached to plants. *Eumenes fraternus* produces two generations per year; the second generation overwinters as prepupae.

Prey: Cankerworm or inchworm moth larvae (caterpillars), family Geometridae.

Common Native Nectar Plants: Fleabane (*Erigeron*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), and Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum*).

Activity: Generation 1 - emergence in March (south) and May or early June (north). Generation 2 - active until November (south) and August to late October (north).