

WASP FACT SHEET

Oxybelus uniglumis Prong-backed Fly Hunter Wasp



Canada Goldenrod



Female Excavating Nest



Common Yarrow



Female with Prey

Scientific Name: *Oxybelus uniglumis* (Crabronidae)

Common Name: Prong-backed Fly Hunter Wasp

Range: The wasp occurs in northeastern North America from Minnesota east to New Hampshire (including Ontario, Canada) and south to Illinois and Georgia. Its range also includes California, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Nebraska in the US; and southern Saskatchewan west to British Columbia and north to Yukon Territory in Canada.

Biology: *Oxybelus uniglumis* nests in well-drained, sandy soil in a variety of habitats. A fully provisioned nest has one cell or at most a few cells. The female hunts various kinds of flies, captures one, then stings it, injecting venom to immobilize it. Rather than transporting the prey clutched beneath her like other small predatory wasps, she instead leaves her sting impaled in the fly while transporting it back to the nest (see photo left). She lays a single egg on the first fly placed in a nest cell, then adds an additional two to nine more flies before backfilling the nest.

Prey: Flies belonging to many families.

Common Native Nectar Plants: Goldenrod (*Solidago*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), and common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

Activity: May to early October.