

WASP FACT SHEET

Anacrabro ocellatus Angled Square-headed Wasp



Female Removing Soil from Nest



Male Visiting New Jersey Tea



Male Visiting Swamp Milkweed



Scientific Name: *Anacrabro ocellatus* (Crabronidae)

Common Name: Angled Square-headed Wasp

Range: Minnesota east to Maine including southern Ontario and Quebec; Minnesota south to Missouri and Alabama, east to Florida.

Biology: *Anacrabro ocellatus* females excavate a nest in sandy or gravelly sites, often next to a clump of grass or rock that provides a landmark to locate the nest. The object may also help conceal the nest entrance. A completed solitary nest contains multiple cells; each cell is provisioned with approximately four to nine plant bugs.

Behavior: As she removes clumps of soil, she holds the clump in her mandibles and supports it with her forelegs. Then, she begins to fly holding the soil clump, passing back and forth over the nest entrance before flying off a short distance to drop the clump of soil. Transporting excavated soil away from the nest entrance helps make the nest entrance less discoverable by potential predators. The flight passes also provide an opportunity for the female to orient to the nest location, using the position of the sun and nearby objects as a spatial and visual guide.

Prey: Plant bugs (family Miridae).

Common Native Nectar Plants: Milkweed (*Asclepias*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), and yarrow (*Achillea*).

Activity: May to October (south) and June to early September (north).