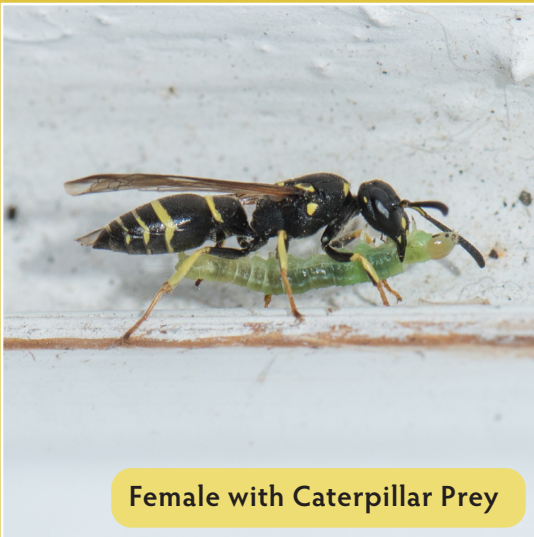


WASP FACT SHEET

Ancistrocerus adiabatus Bramble Mason Wasp



Female Collecting Soil



Female with Caterpillar Prey



Female Sealing Nest with Mud



Visiting Goldenrod

Scientific Name: *Ancistrocerus adiabatus* (Vespidae)

Common Name: Bramble Mason Wasp

Range: This wasp is most prevalent in eastern North America, particularly in the Upper Midwest, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic regions. Populations also occur in the west in California, the Pacific Northwest, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Biology: Females establish a nest in an aboveground preexisting cavity such as in dead trees, plant stems, abandoned mud nests constructed by other wasps, and other similar opportunities. The nest contains multiple cells, their number dependent upon the depth of the nest. The female collects soil, combines it with water, then carries the clump of mud in her mandibles back to the nest; she uses the mud to line and partition each cell. The nest cells are mass provisioned with caterpillars—the number of caterpillars placed in each cell is determined by their physical size or instar stage. When a nest is fully provisioned, the female seals off the end of the cavity, often leaving an empty cell or vestibule behind the nest closure. This wasp produces at least two generations per year.

Prey: Moth larvae (caterpillars) including the families Oecophoridae, Gelechiidae, Tortricidae, and Coleophoridae.

Common Native Nectar Plants: Fleabane (*Erigeron*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), aster (*Symphotrichum*), golden Alexanders (*Zizia*), and boneset (*Eupatorium*).

Activity: April until mid-November (south) and mid-May to mid-October (north).