

# WASP FACT SHEET

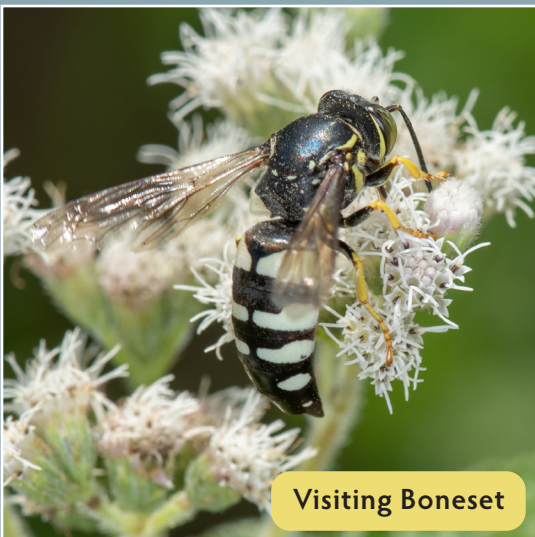
## *Bicyrtes quadrifasciatus* Four-banded Sand Wasp



Female Excavating Nest



Female with Stink Bug Prey



Visiting Boneset



Male Visiting Pale Indian Plantain

**Scientific Name:** *Bicyrtes quadrifasciatus* (Crabronidae)

**Common Name:** Four-banded Sand Wasp

**Range:** Eastern North America from eastern Minnesota south to eastern Texas, east to southern Maine and Florida. Also southeastern Wyoming and northeastern Colorado.

**Biology:** This solitary wasp nests in the ground, typically in bare or sparsely vegetated loose sand such as in beaches, old dunes, or sand prairies. When ideal conditions occur, many females will nest in close proximity forming large nest aggregations. The female excavates either a single-celled or multi-celled nest, typically with no more than three cells. After capturing and stinging a true bug, the female carries the paralyzed prey upside down and headfirst, clutching it with her midlegs as she flies back to the nest. When she lands on the ground, she continues to clutch the bug with her midlegs (see photo left), freeing up her forelegs to reopen the nest as her hind legs support her body. She mass provisions the nest cells with four to fourteen true bug nymphs or adults. This wasp produces one generation per year.

**Prey:** True bug nymphs and adults belonging to the families Pentatomidae, Scutelleridae, Reduviidae, and Coreidae.

**Common Native Nectar Plants:** Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), white prairie clover (*Dalea candida*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), and black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*).

**Activity:** April to October (south), and mid-June or early July to September (north).