

WASP FACT SHEET

Eremnophila aureonotata
Gold-marked
Thread-waisted Wasp



Canada Goldenrod



Virginia Mountain Mint



Black-eyed Susan



Common Boneset

Scientific Name: *Eremnophila aureonotata* (Sphecidae)

Common Name: Gold-marked Thread-waisted Wasp

Range: This wasp occurs in eastern North America from central Minnesota south to eastern Texas, and east to southern New Brunswick (Canada) and Florida. Scattered populations occur in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Biology: *Eremnophila aureonotata* occurs in flower-rich meadows or prairies sited close to woodlands, habitat for its prey, large moth caterpillars. This wasp nests in the ground; the female excavates a shallow nest burrow prior to hunting for prey. After capturing and stinging the prey to immobilize it, she transports the large prey across the ground, straddling it, and grasping its head in her mandibles. She places a single caterpillar in the nest cell and lays an egg on it before backfilling the nest. To conceal the location of the fully provisioned nest, she tamps the backfilled soil with her head, then collects pieces of plant debris and small pebbles to place on the disturbed soil.

Prey: Moth larvae (caterpillars) from the families Noctuidae, Notodontidae, and Spingidae.

Common Native Nectar Plants: Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), and black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*).

Activity: February to November (south) and June to September (north).