

WASP FACT SHEET

Myzinum quinquecinctum Five-banded Thynnid Wasp



Female Visiting Yarrow



Male Visiting Boneset



Male Roosting Aggregation



Female Visiting Pale Indian Plantain

Scientific Name: *Myzinum quinquecinctum* (Thynnidae)

Common Name: Five-banded Thynnid Wasp

Range: This wasp primarily occurs in central and eastern North America from the Dakotas southwest to southeastern Arizona, and east to New Hampshire in the north and Florida in the south. Populations also occur in California and western Utah.

Biology: *Myzinum quinquecinctum* is a parasitoid wasp that does not construct a nest to house prey. Instead, females lay an egg directly on the prey (scarab beetle larva). To locate the host belowground, the female perches on the ground, then using olfactory or other sensory means such as detecting vibrations emanating from the host's movement, she determines the location of the host. She excavates her way to the host, immobilizes the beetle larva temporarily by stinging it, then lays an egg on the larva. After consuming the beetle larva, the wasp larva pupates, then spends the winter belowground until emerging the following year as an adult.

Behavior: Males establish roosting aggregations, spending the night resting on or clasping plant foliage. The roosting spots are reused night after night, and if undisturbed, by the next generation of males the following growing season (see photo, bottom left).

Host: Scarab beetle larvae (white grubs), family Scarabaeidae. A common host is May beetles (genus *Phyllophaga*).

Common Native Nectar Plants: Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), milkweed (*Asclepias*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium*), and mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*).

Activity: April to November (south) and late June or early July to mid-October (north).