

# WASP FACT SHEET

## *Philanthus gibbosus* Hump-backed Beewolf



Female with Green Sweat Bee Prey



Female with Small Sweat Bee Prey



Visiting Butterfly Milkweed



Male Visiting Flowering Spurge

**Scientific Name:** *Philanthus gibbosus* (Crabronidae)

**Common Name:** Hump-backed Beewolf

**Range:** This wasp occurs in most US states as well as southern British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. It is very common in Texas, the Pacific Northwest, along the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic seaboard, and south and west of the Great Lakes.

**Biology:** *Philanthus gibbosus* nests in the ground, typically in bare or sparsely vegetated well-drained soil. Nests are usually solitary although a few communal nests—nests in which multiple females share the nest but provision their own cells—have been documented. A nest can be quite deep and always contains multiple cells; each cell is stocked with three to nine sweat bees. This wasp hunts for prey near or on flowers, or next to the nest of its prey.

**Behavior:** Males establish territories by depositing pheromones on plants near the nest emergence site. After establishing a perch with a vantage point in a territory, males defend their territory by making patrol flights, chasing away any other males that enter.

**Prey:** Sweat bees (family Halictidae) including the genera *Halictus*, *Lasioglossum*, and *Augochloropsis*.

**Common Native Nectar Plants:** Flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*), boneset (*Eupatorium*), milkweed (*Asclepias*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), and black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*).

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