

Mud-dauber Wasp



UGA1325091

GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

MUD-DAUBER WASP

FAMILY: Sphecidae

ORDER: Hymenoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1 - 1 1/8 inch long
- ◆ black or steel blue; may have yellow markings
- ◆ slender with a narrow, thread-like waist
- ◆ two pairs of clear, veined wings
- ◆ large head with backward curving antennae



Where to Look:

Mud-dauber wasps can be found feeding in gardens, meadows or at puddles collecting mud for their nests. Their mud nests are often found in the eaves of buildings or barns.

Who Eats It?

Mud-dauber wasps are eaten by birds and bats.



LIFE CYCLE

COMPLETE
METAMORPHOSIS

Mud-dauber wasps are solitary and do not nest in colonies. They nest in the ground or make mud nests. They supply prey in the nest on which the larvae feed. The larva pupates in a cocoon and the adult emerges in the spring.

What It Eats.

Adult mud-dauber wasps feed on nectar at flowers. The larvae feed on insects and spiders

Role in the Ecosystem

Mud-dauber wasps, as adults, are pollinators. The adults and larva both play a role in population control as the adults supply the larvae with prey in the nest.



Did You Know

Mud-daubers build cylindrical tube nests of mud attached to buildings. They catch an insect or spider, paralyze it and put it in the nest. A single egg is laid on the prey on which it will feed after hatching.