



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

www.mass.gov/nhesp

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Oil-collecting Bees *Macropis ciliata*, *M. nuda*, *M. patellata*

State Status: **None**
Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: The three oil-collecting bees, *Macropis ciliata* (Ciliary Oil-collecting bee), *Macropis nuda* (Naked Oil-collecting Bee), and *Macropis patellata* (Patellar Oil-collecting Bee) are all small, dark, hairy native bees. As for many native bees, consultation of a technical manual is needed for accurate identification. For a complete description of these bees, see:

- <http://www.discoverlife.org/20/q?search=Macropis+ciliata>
- <http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?search=Macropis+nuda&flags=subgenus:>
- <http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?search=Macropis+patellata&flags=subgenus:>

HABITAT: These bees prefer open habitats supporting host plants, especially with *Lysimachia* plants (yellow loosestrifes) nearby.

LIFE HISTORY: These species fly June through September. Generally, they nest in July; their burrows in the ground can be fully exposed to completely covered. The eggs are laid on food provisions, which are composed of pollen and oil. The larvae feed on provisions for approximately two weeks and then construct cocoons in a brood chamber. Adults usually fly between 10 AM and 6 PM, and can be found sleeping and mating on flowers.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE: Colorado to New England.

STATUS AND THREATS: These bees are relatively common, but some insecticides pose a threat.



Female *Macropis ciliata*. Photo by Sam Droege.



Female *Macropis nuda*. Photo courtesy of The Packer Lab – Bee Tribes of the World.

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; www.mass.gov/dfw

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

www.mass.gov/nhesp

REFERENCES:

- Ascher, J.S., and J. Pickering. 2015. Discover Life bee species guide and world checklist (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Anthophila).
http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?guide=Apoidea_species
- Michener, C.D. 2000. *The Bees of the World*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London.
- Rozen, J.G., Jr. 1980. Biology and immature stages of *Macropis nuda*, including comparisons to related bees (Apoidea, Mellitidae). *American Novitates*. Number 2702.

Prepared 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

www.mass.gov/nhesp