

Identifying Markings

- ½ - ¾ inch (1.3 - 2 cm) long
- Dark smoky brown wings
- One cream/yellow band on second segment of abdomen (near “waist”)
- Three large cream/yellow spots on face



Female *Cerceris fumipennis*
(photo by P. Careless)

- *Cerceris fumipennis* is active in eastern North America during **July and August**

How to Identify Nests

- Entrance hole is the diameter of a pencil
- This entrance hole travels straight down (not angled into the ground)
- Entrance hole surrounded by a circle of soil, much like an ant mound (if the soil is fanned out to one side it is likely the burrow of another species of digger wasp)
- Nest is often tucked beside or partially under a clump of grass
- Nests are often found clustered in a small area (a colony). Each colony may have between 5 - 500 nests.



Cerceris Nests (photos by P Careless)

Biosurveillance

- Visit your colony, around noon, on 3 or 4 sunny days, in month of July and select as many nests as you can keep an eye on
- At each nest, pin the ‘collar’ to the ground with golf tee, positioning the collar’s second hole over the nest’s entrance.



A wasp carrying prey will not fit through the hole (photo by P. Careless)

- For 1 - 3 hours, watch as wasps return to their nests. Wasps with prey can either be netted in flight or caught as they try to pass through the nest collar. Take the prey and release the wasp.
- Try to collect a total of 50 (this may require 3 or 4 visits). Any beetles found on the ground can be included.
- Place the beetles from each day’s catch in a baggie (labeled with location and date). Store the baggie in the freezer until the end of the summer and then send us your collection.
- To be suitable for EAB monitoring a colony should be within 1000 yards (1000 m) of **ash trees**

Promising Nest Sites

- Hard packed sandy soil
- Areas of human disturbance (**baseball diamonds**, old sand pits, trail and road edges, informal parking lots, fire-pits, etc.)
- Full sunshine
- Sparse vegetation (about 50% hard-packed soil and 50% short vegetation)
- Near trees or a wooded area, about 200 yards (200m) or less



Typical *Cerceris fumipennis* Colony Sites
(photos by P. Careless & C. Teerling)

The Emerald Ash Borer

- Small metallic green beetle, 1/2" long, 1/8" wide (1.3 cm long, 0.3 cm wide)
- An exotic beetle from Asia
- Larva tunnels under the bark
- Attacks and kills **all** native ash trees
- First found in Michigan in 2002
- Spreading VERY rapidly across the US and Canada (primarily in firewood)
- Early detection is very difficult, the wasp and WaspWatchers can help



Emerald Ash Borer

For more information, visit our website at www.cerceris.info

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Thanks to...



WaspWatcher

How to find the wasp that hunts **emerald ash borer**

This native wasp is **not known to sting humans**, even when handled.



Female *Cerceris fumipennis*

Cerceris fumipennis is a solitary ground-nesting wasp. The female stocks her nest with native buprestid beetles, as well as the emerald ash borer (EAB), if available.

Biosurveillance (observing colonies of these native wasps and collecting some of the prey they bring back) is currently the most promising way to monitor for EAB. Researchers in the United States and Canada are looking for colonies of these wasps, and could use your help.