

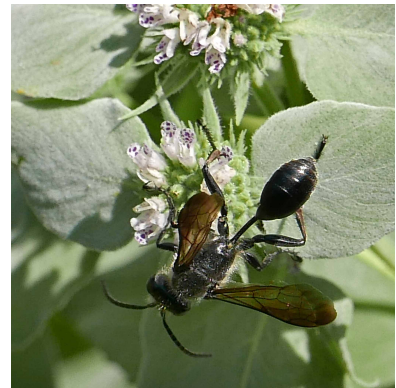
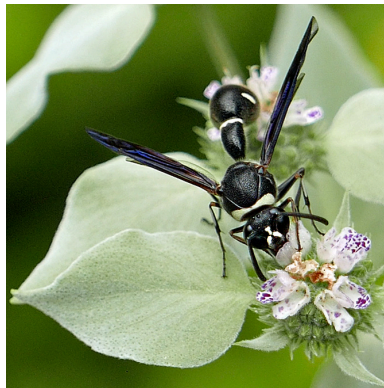
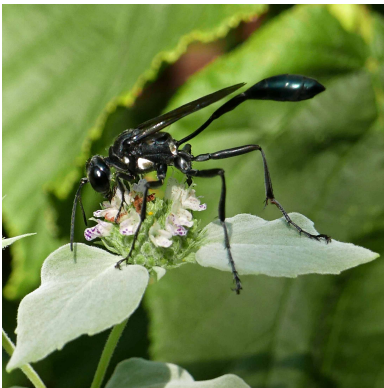
## CONGRATULATIONS!



You have chosen the thick-headed fly (*Physocephala tibialis*) found in the eastern United States. Adult flies visit flowers, like the pictured *Pycnanthemum muticum* (mountain mint), for nectar. Like other flies, it can be distinguished from wasps by one pair of wings; thicker “waist;” variable—often short, few-segmented, bristle-terminating—antennae forming a “V” in the middle of the face; and large, forward-facing eyes. Unlike wasps, female flies do not have stingers.

Solitary wasps—gold-marked thread-waisted wasp (*Eremnophila aureonotata*), potter wasp (*Eumenes fraternus*), and grass-carrying wasp (*Isodontia mexicana*), pictured below from left to right respectively—also feed on nectar from flowers like *Pycnanthemum muticum*. (Read "[What’s that dried grass doing in my window track?](#)" to learn more.) Like other wasps, they share the following characteristics: two pairs of wings; generally slim, smooth bodies with narrow “waists” (constriction between abdomen and thorax); long, slender antennae with numerous segments; and oval-shaped eyes at the sides of the head.

Female solitary wasps are not aggressive and mainly use their stingers to paralyze—not kill—prey to provision their nests, unlike their social relatives that will attack en masse to defend their nests. Although male solitary wasps may act aggressively to defend their territory, they cannot sting.



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