



Azalea miner (*Andrena cornelli*), pictured on an azalea flower, is a rare miner bee that **specializes in collecting pollen only from *Rhododendron* species**. It is found primarily in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states and in the Appalachian Mountains. According to entomologist [John Ascher](#), “This is the only bee species oligolectic on azalea. Other *Andrena* cannot handle its pollen, but this species does so efficiently as it has long, widely spaced scopal hairs.” (Watch a [video](#) of an azalea miner collecting pollen.)

© Mary Free