

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Mud Dauber

Scientific Name: *Sceliphron caementarium* (Drury)

Order and Family: Hymenoptera: Sphecidae

Size and Appearance: Mud Daubers get their common name from the nest “tubes” they construct from mud. Adults range in size from about 12 to over 25 mm in length, are slender, and are black in color with yellow spots on the legs. They also feature a collar-like pronotum and a slender abdomen. The Mud Wasp, (*Chalybion californicum*) also builds mud nests but it is differentiated by its metallic blue coloration.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1 mm	1 egg is laid per mud tube in which a female has deposited a spider.
Larva/Nymph	10-27 in length depending on instar and species	White, cylindrical. Feeds on spider paralyzed by female wasp.
Adult	12-25+ mm long	Black in overall coloration with yellow spotting on legs. They have a collar-like pronotum and slender abdomen.
Pupa (if applicable)	10-25 mm long	Larva spins silken cocoon and overwinters inside, not pupating until the following spring.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host /s: The female *S. caementarium* paralyzes spiders, laying eggs on them to support developing young.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): These wasps provide a positive service by consuming spider pests. They are solitary and do not readily sting. However, if they are close to a home, removal is warranted. Stings can cause severe allergic reaction in certain individuals.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). *Bees, Hornets, and Wasps-Mud Daubers*. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (2.8.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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