

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Mark Helm, Flickr

Common Name: Blue Mud Dauber

Scientific Name: *Chalybion californicum*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera: Sphecidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph	25 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creamy white.
Adult	12 -18 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entire body deep metallic blue, blue-green, or black.• Wings are blueish.
Pupa (if applicable)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silky white cocoon.

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

Host/s: Adult females provision cells with spiders, including black widow (*Latrodectus spp.*) for nourishment for larvae.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): This species does not cause damage, but their activity near buildings can be a nuisance. Although capable of stinging, blue mud daubers do not defend nests and do not typically sting. Blue mud daubers usually reuse the nests of black and yellow mud dauber wasp, and

are not often found constructing brand new nests on buildings. However, the presence of the nests on structures can be unsightly and may need to be removed.

References:

Chalybion californicum. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://www.discoverlife.org/20/q?search=Chalybion californicum](https://www.discoverlife.org/20/q?search=Chalybion%20californicum)

Landes, D. A., Obin, M. S., Cady, A. B., & Hunt, J. H. (1987). Seasonal and Latitudinal Variation in Spider Prey of the Mud Dauber Chalybion Californicum (Hymenoptera, Sphecidae). *The Journal of Arachnology*, 249-256.