

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Jon Yuschock, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Potter Wasp

Scientific Name: *Eumenes fraternus*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera, Vespidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	9-17 mm	Body is jet black with pale yellowish-white markings. 1 st abdominal segments are petiolate or thin and gradually widening towards the posterior end.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: Adults consume nectar from Solidago and other flowering plants. Larvae feed on caterpillars provided by the mother.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Potter wasps are beneficial predators of lepidopteran larvae. The adult females build mud nests that look like little jugs on the side of buildings and branches of plants. Once the nest is built, the female wasp lays an egg suspended on a stalk and provisions the nest with up to 12 paralyzed caterpillars before sealing it. Despite being able to sting,

potter wasp females are not aggressive and do not occupy the nest once it is built. Likelihood of being stung is very low.

References:

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