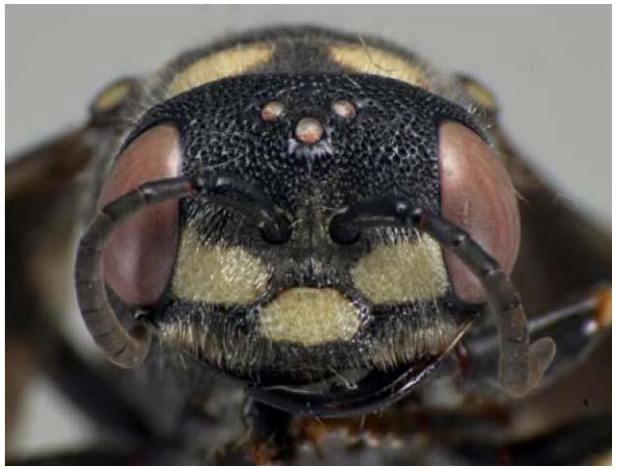
Identifying Markings

- ½ - ¾ inch (1.3 – 2 cm) long
- Dark smoky-brown wings
- One cream/yellow band on second segment of abdomen near "waist" (red arrow)
- Three large cream/yellow spots on face

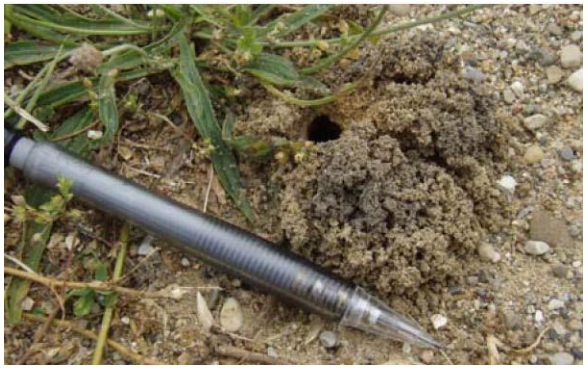


Female *Cerceris fumipennis*
(photo by P. Careless)

- *Cerceris fumipennis* is most active in **Louisiana** during **May and June**

How to Identify Nests

- Entrance hole is the diameter of a pencil
- This entrance hole travels straight down (not angled into the ground)
- Entrance hole surrounded by a circle of soil, much like an ant mound (if the soil is fanned out to one side it is likely the burrow of a another species of digger wasp)
- Nest is often tucked beside or partially under a clump of grass
- Nests are often found clustered in a small area (a colony). Each colony may have between 5 – 500 nests.



***Cerceris* Nests** (photos by P Careless)

Biosurveillance

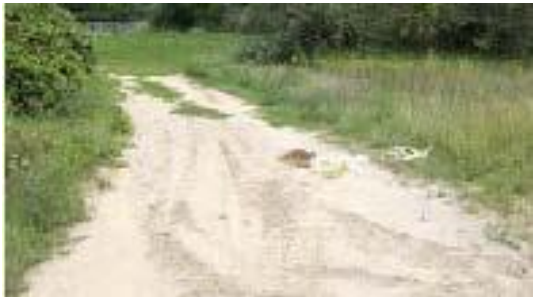
- Visit your colony, around 10 AM – noon, on 3 or 4 sunny days in May or June and select as many nests as you can keep an eye on.
- At each nest, pin the 'collar' to the ground, positioning the collar's second hole over the nest's entrance.

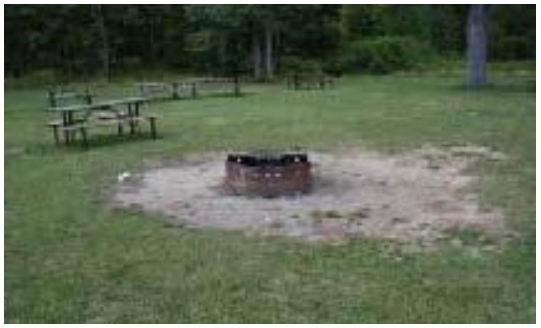
A wasp carrying prey will not fit through the hole (photo by P. Careless)

- For 1–3 hours, watch as wasps return to their nests. Wasps with prey can either be netted in flight or caught as they try to pass through the nest collar. Take the prey and release the wasp.
- Try to collect a total of 50 beetles (this may require 3 or 4 visits). Any beetles found on the ground can be included.
- Place the beetles from each day's catch in a vial labeled with location and date. Mail us the vials and your collection notes at the end of the project.
- Scout around the area and try to find any **ash trees** within 1000 yards of your site. Note presence of ash trees on the label, or in your description of the site.

Promising Nest Sites

- Hard packed sandy soil
- Areas of human disturbance (**baseball diamonds,** old sand pits, trail and road edges, informal parking lots, fire-pits, etc.)
- Full sunshine
- Sparse vegetation (about 50% hard-packed soil and 50% short vegetation)
- Near trees or a wooded area, about 200 yards (200m) or less





Typical *Cerceris fumipennis* Colony Sites
(photos by P. Careless & C. Teerling)

The Emerald Ash Borer

- Small metallic green beetle, 1/2” long, 1/8” wide (1.3 cm long, 0.3 cm wide)
- An exotic beetle from Asia
- Larva tunnels under the bark
- Attacks and kills **all** native ash trees
- First found in Michigan in 2002
- Spreading VERY rapidly across the US and Canada (primarily in firewood)
- Early detection is very difficult, the wasp and WaspWatchers can help
- Not in Louisiana yet, but getting closer!

Emerald Ash Borer

In Louisiana: For more information and a free collection kit, visit our website at
www.lsuinsects.org/cerceris

In Louisiana: E-mail
LSUwaspWatcher@gmail.com

Elsewhere in United States or Canada visit:
www.cerceris.info

Thanks to…

FOREST SERVICE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LSU AgCenter Research & Extension

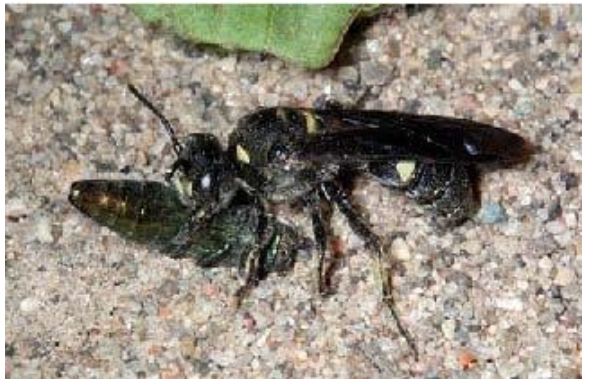
L S A M

This guidebook modified for Louisiana from
http://www.cerceris.info/pdf/pamphlet_generic_waspwatcher.pdf

WaspWatcher

How to find the wasp that hunts **emerald ash borer**

This native wasp is **not known to sting humans**, even when handled**.**



Female *Cerceris fumipennis* with beetle

Cerceris fumipennis is a solitary ground-nesting wasp. The female *Cerceris* (pronounced "sir-sir-us") stocks her nest with native buprestid beetles, as well as the emerald ash borer (EAB), if available.

Biosurveillance (observing colonies of these native wasps and collecting some of the prey they bring back) is currently the most promising way to monitor for EAB. Researchers in the United States and Canada are looking for colonies of these wasps, and could use your help.