



Single Taxon Treatment

Agapostemon fasciatus Crawford (Hymenoptera, Halictidae), a valid North American bee species ranging into southern Canada

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Abstract

Background

Sweat bees of the genus *Agapostemon* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) are common and widespread in the Americas. Despite distinct morphological characters that were recognised in earlier taxonomic treatments, *Agapostemon fasciatus* Crawford, 1901 has been considered a variety of *A. melliventris* Cresson, 1874 since the 1930s and later placed into synonymy under *A. melliventris* in the early 1970s.

New information

A more detailed study of morphology (including examination of type materials), distribution and genetic data (i.e. DNA barcodes) of these two taxa suggests they are not conspecific. As such, *A. fasciatus* is resurrected as a valid North American bee species. *Agapostemon fasciatus* ranges further north in North America than *A. melliventris*, reaching the southern Prairies Ecozone of Canada (Alberta, Saskatchewan), while most records of *A. melliventris* are from the south-western United States and northern Mexico. More accurate distributions

for both species can be modelled as specimens in collections are identified using the diagnostic features provided. However, additional work is required on the *A. melliventris* species complex in the southern United States as genetic data suggest that multiple taxa could be present.

Keywords

sweat bees, resurrected species name, type material, DNA barcode, distribution

Introduction

Bees of the genus *Agapostemon* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) are commonly encountered throughout southern Canada and all of the United States and Mexico, the Antilles and into South America (Roberts 1972, Roberts and Brooks 1987, Janic and Packer 2003). Roberts (1972) recognised 43 species from the Americas (though see Sheffield et al. (2021)), seven of these known from Canada (Sheffield et al. 2017).

Sheffield et al. (2014) reported *A. melliventris* Cresson, 1874 from Saskatchewan, which was also a new record for Canada. *Agapostemon melliventris*, a species of apparent Sonoran origin (Porter 1983), is considered rather unique amongst the genus by usually having a metasoma that is at least partially amber coloured (Fig. 1) and being one of only four species in which females have the clypeus pale maculated apically (Fig. 2a, b, c), while all other species have a clypeus that is dark apically (Fig. 2d) (see the keys of Roberts (1972)). However, the colour of the metasoma of females of *A. melliventris* s. l. varies from mostly amber to black (Cockerell 1924, Roberts 1972) (and see Fig. 1) resulting in the synonymy of two taxa under *A. melliventris*: *A. digueti* Cockerell, 1924 (synonymy by Sandhouse (1936)) and *A. fasciatus* Crawford, 1901 (synonymy by Roberts (1972)).

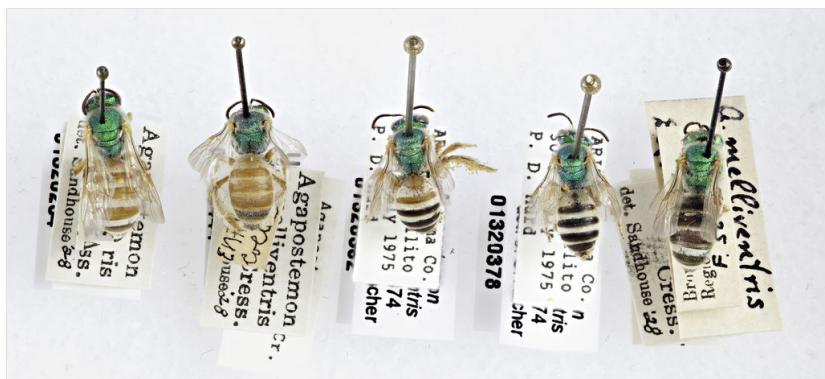


Figure 1. [doi](#)

Variation in metasomal colour in female *Agapostemon melliventris* Cresson, 1874 s. l. based on the species concept of Roberts (1972).



Figure 2.

Faces of female *Agapostemon* Guérin-Méneville, 1844.

a: *Agapostemon melliventris* Cresson, 1874 with pale maculations on clypeus apically, and on scape; [doi](#)

b: *Agapostemon digueti* Cockerell, 1924 (= *A. melliventris* Cresson, 1874) with pale maculations on clypeus apically and on scape. Holotype; [doi](#)

c: *Agapostemon fasciatus* Crawford, 1901 with pale maculations on clypeus apically, but not on scape; [doi](#)

d: *Agapostemon virescens* (Fabricius, 1775) with no maculation on clypeus apically or on scape. [doi](#)

Females of typical *A. melliventris* have at least the first three metasomal segments almost completely amber in colour (Cresson 1874) (Fig. 3a), while the females, originally described as *A. digueti*, usually have only the first two segments amber in colour (Fig. 3b), though variation was reported even within the type material (Cockerell 1924). In addition to partially sharing the amber metasomal colouration, the females of *A. melliventris* and *A. digueti* share pale maculations on the scape (Fig. 2a, b), one of the character states

assigned to this taxon (i.e. *A. melliventris* s. l.) in the morphology-based phylogeny of Janjic and Packer (2003). Females from the type series of *A. fasciatus* (Fig. 4), though sharing the clypeal colour pattern with these two taxa (Fig. 4c), differ in not having the scape maculated (Fig. 2c) and with little to no amber colouration on the metasoma (Fig. 4a, b).

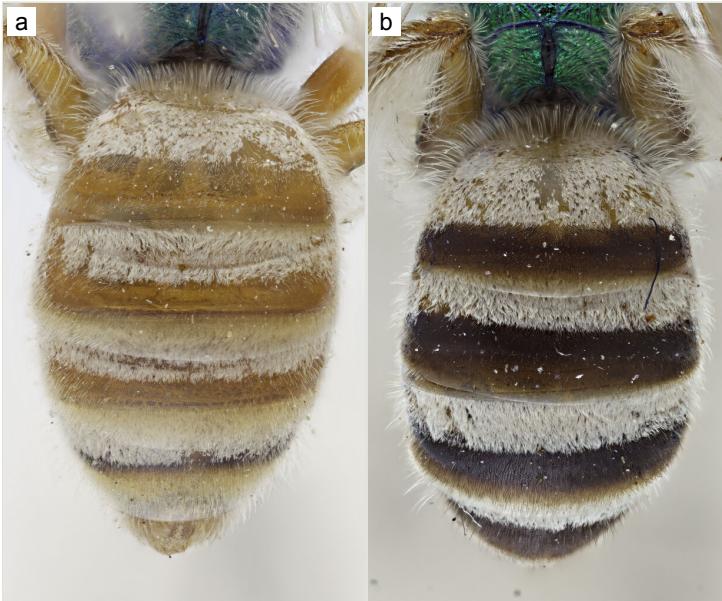


Figure 3.

Metasomal colour pattern in female *Agapostemon melliventris* Cresson, 1874.

a: *Agapostemon melliventris* Cresson, 1874; typical pattern; [doi](#)

b: *Agapostemon digueti* Cockerell, 1924; paratype. [doi](#)

The male of *A. melliventris* s. l., though known to Cockerell (1897), Titus (1900) and Hooker (1908), was not described until done so by Sandhouse (1936) and is also considered unique from most other North American *Agapostemon* in having the basal area of tergum 1 pale amber to yellow (Fig. 5a), not black (Fig. 5b) (and see Roberts (1972)). Males in the type series of *A. fasciatus* also show other distinct morphological differences from males of *A. melliventris* and *A. digueti*, including the colour of the trochanters, being metallic green in *A. fasciatus* (Fig. 6a), but entirely yellow or with slight greenish tinges on the hind leg in the other two taxa (Fig. 6b) (Sandhouse 1936).

Despite noting these morphological differences in both sexes of these taxa and commenting on differences in distribution, Sandhouse (1936) failed to recognise *A. fasciatus* (as *A. plurifasciatus* (Vachal, 1903)) as a distinct species, instead recognising it as a variety of *A. melliventris*. Subsequently, only the variation of metasomal colour of females was used by Roberts (1972) to justify his synonymy of *A. fasciatus* under *A. melliventris*. Roberts (1972) indicated a sympatric distribution of *A. fasciatus* and *A. melliventris*, though he likely did not distinguish material thoroughly, based on the distinct

morphological differences that were initially described by Crawford (1901) and emphasised by Sandhouse (1936).

The purpose here is to clarify the taxonomic status of these taxa for an upcoming review of Canadian bee species by re-examining morphology and analysing COI sequences and distribution of previously recognised units of *A. melliventris* s. l. in North America.

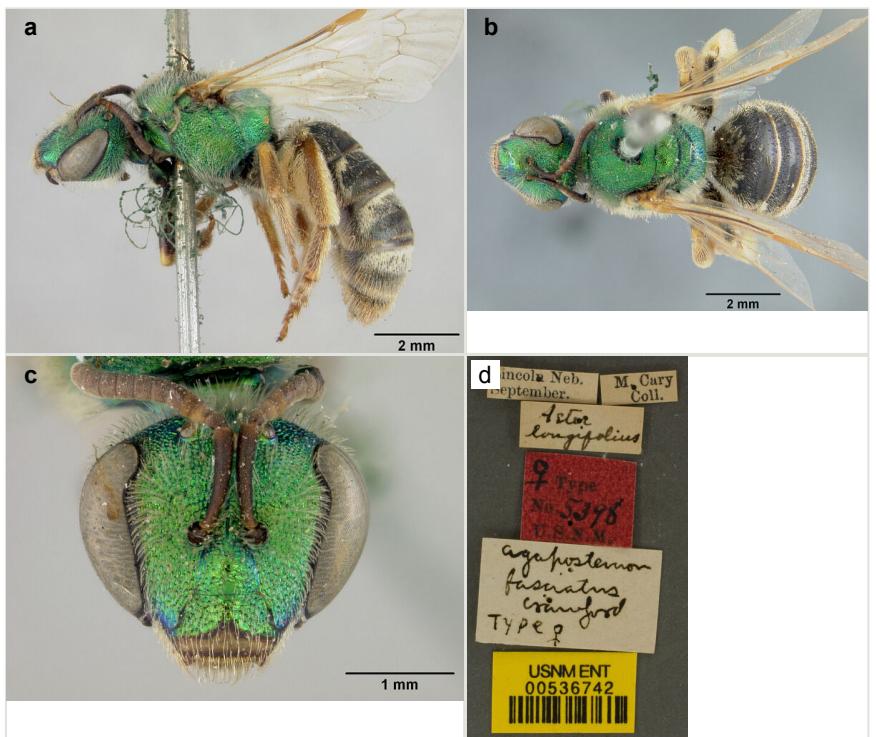


Figure 4.

Lectotype of *Agapostemon fasciatus* Crawford, 1901; female. Photo credit, USNM (<http://n2t.net/ark:/65665/36b5b45cd-fd75-40a6-b593-69c726ee115d>).

a: Lateral view; [doi](#)

b: Dorsal view; [doi](#)

c: Face, showing clypeus with pale apical maculation, but unmaculated scape; [doi](#)

d: Associated labels. [doi](#)

Materials and methods

Specimens of *A. melliventris* s. l., including type materials, from several North American collections were examined for morphological comparisons for this study, including [CANADA]: Royal Saskatchewan Museum [RSKM], Regina, Saskatchewan; Royal Alberta Museum [PMAE], Edmonton, Alberta; Royal British Columbia Museum [RBCM], Victoria, British Columbia; Packer Collection at York University [PCYU], Toronto, Ontario; [UNITED

STATES]: American Museum of Natural History [AMNH], New York; United States National Museum [USNM], Washington, D.C.; University of Colorado Museum of Natural History [UCMC], Boulder, Colorado; Droege Collection, USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab [BIML], Laurel, Maryland; The University of Arizona [UAIC], Tucson, Arizona.

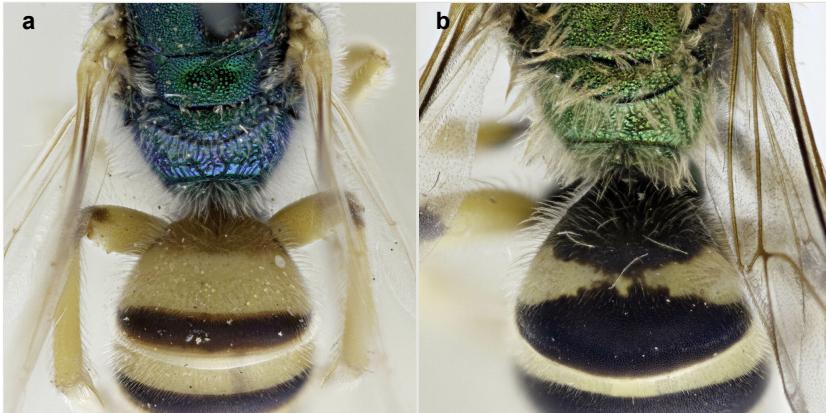


Figure 5.

Dorsal view of tergum 1 in male *Agapostemon* Guérin-Méneville, 1844.

a: *Agapostemon fasciatus* Crawford, 1901; [doi](#)

b: *Agapostemon virescens* (Fabricius, 1775). [doi](#)

In addition to the materials mentioned above, records were also mined from the literature (e.g. Porter (1983)) and GBIF.org (2023)), though identifications were likely based on Roberts (1972) concept of the species.

Additional DNA barcode sequences of material from North American were obtained following previously reported methods (Sheffield et al. 2017), supplementing material already in the Barcodes of Life Data System (BOLD: Ratnasingham and Hebert (2007)) as part of an ongoing campaign to build a comprehensive DNA barcode library for the bee fauna of Canada (Sheffield et al. 2017) and the World (Packer et al. 2010). All data were mapped using SimpleMapper (Shorthouse 2010) with taxa assigned according to morphology as per Crawford (1901) and Sandhouse (1936), as described above. Only specimen data for examined specimens of *A. fasciatus* are provided for this single taxon treatment; specimens from the AMNH were identified by Corey Smith using photos and descriptions provided by the author.

Taxon treatment

Agapostemon (Agapostemon) fasciatus Crawford, 1901

Nomenclature

Agapostemon fasciatus Crawford, 1901: 163 [♀, ♂].

Lectotype ♀. Designated by J.C. Crawford in Sandhouse (1936): 79. USA, Nebraska [USNM no. 5398]. **Examined** (Fig. 4).

Halictus (Agapostemon) plurifasciatus Vachal, 1903: 101. Unnecessary replacement name.

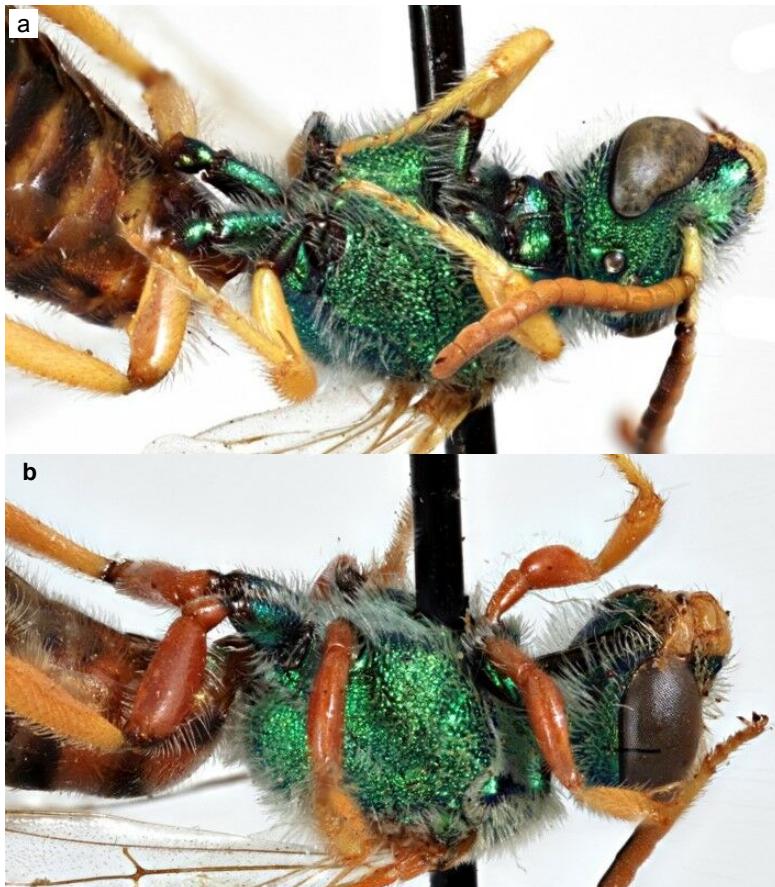


Figure 6.

Ventral surface of the thorax of male *Agapostemon* Guérin-Méneville, 1844.

a: *Agapostemon fasciatus* Crawford, 1901 (paralectotype), showing the metallic green coxae and trochanters of each leg; [doi](#)

b: *Agapostemon melliventris* Cresson, 1874, showing the metallic green coxae and non-metallic trochanters of each leg; this pattern is also consistent with *A. digueti* Cockerell, 1924.

[doi](#)

Materials

- a. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Otero; locality: La Junta; decimalLatitude: 37.985; decimalLongitude: -103.54333; georeferenceProtocol: label; eventDate: Aug-12-1920; year: 1920; month: 8; day: 12; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: AMNH_BEE 00039528;

- recordedBy: unknown; identifiedBy: C. Smith; identificationRemarks: characters for determination provided by C.S. Sheffield; language: en; collectionID: urn:lsid:biocol.org:col:34252; institutionCode: AMNH; collectionCode: Insects; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: DAC19EC9-54C0-53B5-A34C-4E0533C3C1D1
- b. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: New Mexico; county: Guadalupe; locality: Newkirk; decimalLatitude: 35.06833; decimalLongitude: -104.26472; georeferenceProtocol: label; eventDate: Jul-15-1950; year: 1950; month: 7; day: 15; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: AMNH_BEE 00214796; recordedBy: T. Cohn, P. Boone, M. A. Cazier; identifiedBy: C. Smith; identificationRemarks: characters for determination provided by C.S. Sheffield; language: en; collectionID: urn:lsid:biocol.org:col:34252; institutionCode: AMNH; collectionCode: Insects; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 6A3B26D3-1563-525C-8613-AF30ECC7A33A
- c. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Texas; county: Wichita; locality: 9 mi N of Electra; decimalLatitude: 34.16; decimalLongitude: -98.919; georeferenceProtocol: GPS; eventDate: Jun-27-1948; year: 1948; month: 6; day: 27; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: AMNH_BEE 00214842; recordedBy: C. Vaurie, P. Vaurie; identifiedBy: C. Smith; identificationRemarks: characters for determination provided by C.S. Sheffield; language: en; collectionID: urn:lsid:biocol.org:col:34252; institutionCode: AMNH; collectionCode: Insects; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: B443D4BE-CBE8-5ABB-A103-3847C4F99EBC
- d. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Mexico; stateProvince: Chihuahua; locality: 25 mi SW of Camargo; locationRemarks: D. Rockefeller Exp.; decimalLatitude: 27.4096; decimalLongitude: -105.4565; georeferenceProtocol: label; eventDate: Jul-14-1947; year: 1947; month: 7; day: 14; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: AMNH_BEE 00214868; recordedBy: C. D. Michener; identifiedBy: C. Smith; identificationRemarks: characters for determination provided by C.S. Sheffield; language: en; collectionID: urn:lsid:biocol.org:col:34252; institutionCode: AMNH; collectionCode: Insects; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: D4F91165-1C29-5C0A-AE0E-D03DA07CABF7
- e. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Texas; county: Kenedy; locality: Sarita; locationRemarks: Ex Coll. M. A. Cazier; Sand hills; decimalLatitude: 27.22338; decimalLongitude: -97.79123; eventDate: Dec-05-1911; year: 1911; month: 12; day: 5; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: AMNH_BEE 00214881; recordedBy: unknown; identifiedBy: C. Smith; identificationRemarks: characters for determination provided by C.S. Sheffield; language: en; institutionCode: AMNH; collectionCode: Insects; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 71BA74F8-58AE-57EA-AA7A-AE1E25C779A1
- f. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Texas; county: Wichita; locality: Burk Burnett, Red River; decimalLatitude: 34.0429; decimalLongitude: -98.3402; eventDate: Jun-26-1948; year: 1948; month: 6; day: 26; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: AMNH_BEE 00214936; recordedBy: C. Vaurie, P. Vaurie; identifiedBy: C. Smith; identificationRemarks: characters for determination provided by C.S. Sheffield; language: en; institutionCode: AMNH; collectionCode: Insects; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: FA157FA7-2652-58AB-B5E3-1078785C5DBF
- g. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Texas; county: Wichita; locality: Burk Burnett, Red River; decimalLatitude: 34.0429;

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- h. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Texas; county: Wichita; locality: Burk Burnett, Red River; decimalLatitude: 34.0429; decimalLongitude: -98.3402; eventDate: Jun-26-1948; year: 1948; month: 6; day: 26; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: AMNH_BEE 00214955; recordedBy: C. Vaurie, P. Vaurie; identifiedBy: C. Smith; identificationRemarks: characters for determination provided by C.S. Sheffield; language: en; institutionCode: AMNH; collectionCode: Insects; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 05C033F1-C532-5D74-B401-C4270E098556
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- t. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: South Dakota; county: Shannon Co.; decimalLatitude: 43.5265; decimalLongitude: -102.4431; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2011; month: 7; day: 10; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: USGS-DRO 243568; recordedBy: S. Droege; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: EAFA4A99-9D88-5ACD-96A4-0C26F8ABCDEB
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- identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 0F27E857-EADF-5D2D-B0E0-172AEAFD6B82
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- aa. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: South Dakota; county: Shannon Co.; decimalLatitude: 43.5265; decimalLongitude: -102.4431; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2011; month: 7; day: 10; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: USGS-DRO 243541; recordedBy: S. Droege; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 6A386B70-929E-577F-A0E6-4CBF10EAD01F
- ab. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: South Dakota; county: Shannon Co.; decimalLatitude: 43.5265; decimalLongitude: -102.4431; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2011; month: 7; day: 10; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: USGS-DRO 243550; recordedBy: S. Droege; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: DAFAD72E-3EFF-56CC-8628-3A4A2071B091
- ac. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: South Dakota; county: Shannon Co.; decimalLatitude: 43.6482; decimalLongitude: -102.7239; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2011; month: 6; day: 4; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: USGS-DRO 249426; recordedBy: B. Crew; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 94856752-52C6-5620-B0B7-E82C3A303D81
- ad. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: South Dakota; county: Shannon Co.; decimalLatitude: 43.5265; decimalLongitude: -102.4431; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2011; month: 7; day: 10; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: USGS-DRO 243540; recordedBy: S. Droege; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 8057A88E-F4F7-5874-86DE-5EA7956D6845

- ae. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: South Dakota; county: Pennington Co.; decimalLatitude: 43.7165; decimalLongitude: -102.0387; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2011; month: 6; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: USGS-DRO 244089; recordedBy: B. Crew; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 7DDB9407-D519-5BDF-9444-1D1C861F2A4D
- af. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: South Dakota; county: Shannon Co.; decimalLatitude: 43.5265; decimalLongitude: -102.4431; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2011; month: 7; day: 10; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: USGS-DRO 243634; recordedBy: S. Droege; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: D0188499-7ACD-5CCC-B772-C004E9F68AD5
- ag. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; locality: Upton; decimalLatitude: 44.1; decimalLongitude: -104.627; year: 1988; month: 6; day: 17; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264261; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: C2EF84D9-EAB0-5EB9-9AA6-F471653A46E9
- ah. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; locality: Upton; decimalLatitude: 44.1; decimalLongitude: -104.627; year: 1988; month: 6; day: 17; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264262; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 259DE543-25B8-5DFD-8CB0-A335B7ED3CF6
- ai. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; locality: 21 mi S. Newcastle; decimalLatitude: 43.545; decimalLongitude: -104.196; year: 1988; month: 6; day: 18; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264263; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 70F651F9-8615-5095-A9B7-01F692770E8C
- aj. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude: 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264264; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 745C43C4-9212-59BD-96FB-805D2EC1564F
- ak. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude: 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264265; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 13F31842-5C01-5504-B399-CF8ABBD3B1BE
- al. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude: 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264266; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; datelidentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: A6355899-12B3-532A-8DEB-3C89D0855CB4
- am. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude:

- 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264267; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 640DC5C9-64FA-5548-A56D-8CC468233059
- an. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude: 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264268; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: F6C7FC0A-DB20-533E-A2C9-2F9D4484B17A
- ao. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude: 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264269; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 5C0D6317-D9A6-5014-8B12-81380FFC4566
- ap. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude: 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264270; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: CE534890-C565-557E-B6BE-BAE8010A5952
- aq. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: nr. Sussex, 3 mi S of Dry Fork mouth; decimalLatitude: 43.687; decimalLongitude: -106.276; year: 1991; month: 7; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264271; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 0F9FFF9D-94E3-5F31-82C4-FA4DA6EE788E
- ar. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; locality: Upton; decimalLatitude: 44.1; decimalLongitude: -104.627; year: 1988; month: 6; day: 17; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264272; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: FEEA7278-385B-54D0-BDA3-57D81CBE9CF6
- as. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Montana; county: Carbon Co.; locality: Cottonwood Crk. 8 mi S. Bridger; decimalLatitude: 45.2; decimalLongitude: -108.86; year: 1980; month: 8; day: 30; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264273; recordedBy: S. Vogel; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: A758ABDA-CE7C-5E16-B8B9-1C2367D9FC55
- at. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Natrona Co.; locality: Badwater Camp; decimalLatitude: 43.32; decimalLongitude: -107.42; year: 1979; month: 7; day: 27; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264274; recordedBy: P. Robinson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 11ADB813-57E6-57EE-AB91-B400010AD63C
- au. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Wyoming; county: Johnson Co.; locality: 21 mi SE Kaycee; decimalLatitude: 43.46; decimalLongitude: -106.398; year: 1981; month: 7; day: 1; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264275; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham;

- identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: B177A951-0120-5FFB-B837-1C27A65FC8D8
- av. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Bent Co.; locality: Hasty; decimalLatitude: 38.11; decimalLongitude: -102.957; year: 1974; month: 6; day: 26; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264276; recordedBy: H.E. Evans; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 5FE83B0D-A680-5F4D-B60F-8C72C6E2F386
- aw. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Bent Co.; locality: 2 mi S Hasty; decimalLatitude: 38.08; decimalLongitude: -102.958; year: 1975; month: 6; day: 26; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264277; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 33239BF4-318C-5E34-BDCD-340AFDA29898
- ax. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Bent Co.; locality: 2 mi S Hasty; decimalLatitude: 38.08; decimalLongitude: -102.958; year: 1975; month: 6; day: 26; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264278; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 9C5C2A2C-E1B3-53DE-88EE-EC32A4B85BCC
- ay. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Bent Co.; locality: 2 mi S Hasty; decimalLatitude: 38.08; decimalLongitude: -102.958; year: 1975; month: 6; day: 25; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264279; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: D7D82E2E-2DFE-51DA-98E6-335177985C4B
- az. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Nebraska; locality: Lincoln; decimalLatitude: 40.808; decimalLongitude: -96.678; year: 1901; month: 8; day: 4; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264280; recordedBy: M.A. Carriker, Jr.; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 543B8AAF-33C5-53FC-8EA4-2C4C2ABADB10
- ba. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Nebraska; locality: Lincoln; decimalLatitude: 40.808; decimalLongitude: -96.678; year: 1901; month: 8; day: 4; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264281; recordedBy: M.A. Carriker, Jr.; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 22905317-ECB3-520F-AF0B-21F574DC7537
- bb. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; locality: N of Lolita; decimalLatitude: 38.28; decimalLongitude: -103.59; year: 1933; month: 8; day: 8; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264282; recordedBy: H.G. Rodeck, M.T. James; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 7840D7E4-7232-5448-9CD5-81AE0F7FFB6D
- bc. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Boulder Co.; locality: West of Niwot; decimalLatitude: 40.104; decimalLongitude: -105.17; year: 1946; month: 9; day: 13; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264283; recordedBy: H.G. Rodeck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 2C3D6360-8E52-586F-93AA-1693356A99A7

- bd. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Boulder Co.; locality: West of Niwot; decimalLatitude: 40.104; decimalLongitude: -105.17; year: 1946; month: 9; day: 13; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264284; recordedBy: H.G. Rodeck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: DBB6A87D-EB5A-5F11-B27A-A0cff164B6F0
- be. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Crowley Co.; locality: 3 mi NE Lolita; decimalLatitude: 38.28; decimalLongitude: -103.59; year: 1957; month: 8; day: 7; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264285; recordedBy: H.G. Rodeck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: D5867E02-BFF0-5D9B-A1CA-368958AC6B3F
- bf. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Crowley Co.; locality: 3 mi NE Lolita; decimalLatitude: 38.28; decimalLongitude: -103.59; year: 1957; month: 8; day: 7; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264286; recordedBy: H.G. Rodeck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 07DD260A-C4C3-5978-8577-DF818EACB193
- bg. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Bent Co.; locality: 2 mi S Hasty; decimalLatitude: 38.08; decimalLongitude: -102.958; year: 1974; month: 7; day: 19; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264287; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: BED286AB-E213-588B-AF21-20DF161E29B5
- bh. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Bent Co.; locality: 2 mi S Hasty; decimalLatitude: 38.08; decimalLongitude: -102.958; year: 1974; month: 8; day: 13; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264288; recordedBy: U.N. Lanham; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: BDECBC25-9FCE-5674-B5BD-8847AEA9B9FE
- bi. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Montana; county: Carbon Co.; locality: Cottonwood Crk. 8 mi S. Bridger; decimalLatitude: 45.2; decimalLongitude: -108.86; year: 1980; month: 8; day: 30; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264289; recordedBy: S. Vogel; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: EDF28B65-A205-5776-B9BF-A656C65A88BA
- bj. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Crowley Co.; locality: 2 mi SW Sugar City, Lake Meredith; decimalLatitude: 38.2122; decimalLongitude: -103.691; year: 2002; month: 8; day: 20; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264290; recordedBy: V.A. Scott; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 42E679AE-98FC-5D54-8909-C4108FA3471A
- bk. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: United States; stateProvince: Colorado; county: Crowley Co.; locality: 2 mi SW Sugar City, Lake Meredith; decimalLatitude: 38.2122; decimalLongitude: -103.691; year: 2002; month: 8; day: 20; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: UCMC 0264291; recordedBy: V.A. Scott; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 3BDD669B-7CDC-5875-A9BB-1A741307C26B
- bl. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Canada; stateProvince: Saskatchewan; locality: Grasslands NP, West Block; decimalLatitude: 49.2; decimalLongitude: -107.7;

- georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2009; month: 6; day: 13; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: RSKM_ENT_E-90141; recordedBy: D. Larson; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 5000133E-E8BE-5042-88BB-BEA3634EE9E6
- bm. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Canada; stateProvince: Alberta; county: Cypress Co.; locality: Onefour, HRNA; decimalLatitude: 49.01; decimalLongitude: -110.44611; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2013; month: 7; day: 15; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: PMAE00125959; recordedBy: M. Buck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: EA1E75C7-B1B8-53B0-BFA6-21B7DC1C70E7
- bn. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Canada; stateProvince: Alberta; county: Cypress Co.; locality: Onefour, HRNA; decimalLatitude: 49.01; decimalLongitude: -110.44611; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2013; month: 7; day: 15; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: PMAE00125960; recordedBy: M. Buck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 93F63DAD-1240-57CD-BA71-F1D9880FED57
- bo. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Canada; stateProvince: Alberta; county: Cypress Co.; locality: Onefour, HRNA; decimalLatitude: 49.01; decimalLongitude: -110.44611; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2013; month: 7; day: 15; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: PMAE00125961; recordedBy: M. Buck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: A5DE7AD1-ABA5-5F1F-A780-68E99D365784
- bp. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Canada; stateProvince: Alberta; county: Cypress Co.; locality: Onefour, HRNA; decimalLatitude: 49.01; decimalLongitude: -110.44611; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2013; month: 7; day: 15; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: PMAE00125962; recordedBy: M. Buck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 06463A2A-FDA1-5748-A692-6426C6C97DF1
- bq. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Canada; stateProvince: Alberta; county: Cypress Co.; locality: Onefour, HRNA; decimalLatitude: 49.01; decimalLongitude: -110.44611; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2013; month: 7; day: 15; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: PMAE00125963; recordedBy: M. Buck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: 1E7EEE7-9BFB-5247-B453-CFBC39A4B13B
- br. scientificName: *Agapostemon fasciatus*; country: Canada; stateProvince: Alberta; county: Cypress Co.; locality: Onefour, HRNA; decimalLatitude: 49.01; decimalLongitude: -110.44611; georeferenceProtocol: label; year: 2013; month: 7; day: 15; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; catalogNumber: PMAE00125964; recordedBy: M. Buck; identifiedBy: C.S. Sheffield; dateIdentified: 2016; basisOfRecord: PreservedSpecimen; occurrenceID: F40E5018-1936-5500-B53B-A574370A2F27

Diagnosis

The female of *A. fasciatus* can be distinguished from all other North American (i.e. north of Mexico) members of the subgenus *Agapostemon* (*sensu* Janjic and Packer (2003)), except *A. melliventris* and *A. peninsularis* by the pale apical maculation on the clypeus (Fig. 2); within the subgenus *Notagapostemon*, *A. nasutus* and *A. leunculus* also share this feature (Roberts 1972, Janjic and Packer 2003). It can be separated from *A. melliventris* by lacking the pale maculation on the scape (Fig. 2c), which is

present in *A. melliventris* (Fig. 2a, b) and the entirely dark metasoma (Fig. 4a, b), which is partly to mostly amber coloured in *A. melliventris* (Fig. 3).

Males of *A. fasciatus* can be separated from all other North American *Agapostemon*, except *A. melliventris* in having the basal area of tergum 1 coloured pale amber to yellow (Fig. 5a), not black (Fig. 5b). Males of *A. fasciatus* differ from *A. melliventris* by the colour of the trochanters, being metallic green in *A. fasciatus* (Fig. 6a), but entirely non-metallic yellow in *A. melliventris* (Fig. 6b). Differences in genitalia are not apparent.

In addition to these morphological differences in both sexes, the distribution of *A. fasciatus* is typically more northern across the Great Plains, extending into southern Canada (Alberta, Saskatchewan), with only a few records occurring in the south-western United States (Fig. 7).

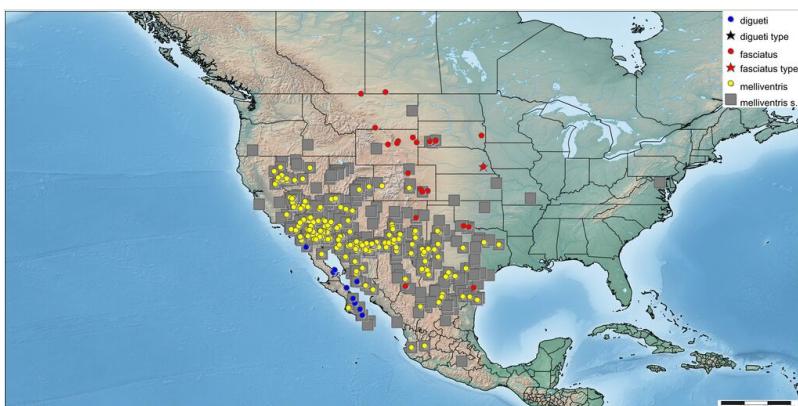


Figure 7. doi

Distribution of confirmed specimens of *Agapostemon fasciatus* Crawford, 1901 (red dots - data provided above) and *A. melliventris* Cresson, 1874 (yellow dots, including type material of *A. digueti* Cockerell, 1924 shown in blue dots) and material identified as *A. melliventris* s. l., but not examined from GBIF.org (2023) and as recorded in literature (underlying grey boxes).

Analysis

In addition to the distinctive morphological characters of both sexes of *A. fasciatus* described above, which are consistent across all material examined, it also differs from *A. melliventris* genetically, based on results from the Barcode Gap Analysis tool in BOLD. *Agapostemon fasciatus* is presently assigned to Barcode Index Number (BIN, after Ratnasingham and Hebert (2013)) [BOLD:ACU3900](#) and differs by 7.99% sequence divergence from other "*A. melliventris*" in BOLD (currently represented by at least three BINs [BOLD:AAJ1185](#), [BOLD:ABY2743](#) and [BOLD:AAN8220](#), which will be the subject of a subsequent paper on the remaining members of species complex not found in Canada). Amongst these four BINs, the mean distance in sequence divergence averages 8.82%, suggesting multiple additional taxa.

Discussion

Crawford (1901) mentioned that 18 female and 37 male species formed the type series (i.e. syntypes), though none of these was specifically designated as a lectotype within any subsequent publication by that author. However, Sandhouse (1936) indicated that Crawford selected a lectotype female and lectoallotype male from his syntype series (these also examined by Cockerell (1937) and Roberts (1972)) from material at the USNM (see above).

Roberts (1972) indicated that he also examined the type material of *A. fasciatus* and *A. digueti* and believed they were conspecific with *A. melliventris*, based on variable metasomal colour of the females alone and pointed out that, until he synonymised *A. fasciatus* with *A. melliventris*, it had been considered by some authors to be of subspecific rank (e.g. Sandhouse (1936)), though others continued to consider it a valid species (e.g. Cockerell (1937), Fischer (1950)). His (Roberts 1972) argument for the synonymy was also based on his belief that *A. fasciatus* was sympatric with *A. melliventris* in the south-western part of the range (namely Arizona) where intermediate forms were "too common" (cf. discussion of variation). However, there is no reason why distinct species cannot have overlapping ranges and it is likely that he made this comment based on female metasomal colour alone (which varies even with *A. melliventris* s. str.); he may not have examined or noted the other characters indicated above that seem to be consistent within each taxa (i.e. scape maculations in females and leg colouring in males). When these are considered, a differing distribution of the two taxa is observed, with only a small area of sympatry (Fig. 7). Thus, some of the material identified as *A. melliventris* from the Great Plains reported recently by Portman et al. (2022) may actually be *A. fasciatus*.

Roberts (1972) also commented on the nomenclature of *A. fasciatus*. Vachal (1903) considered *Agapostemon* a subgenus of *Halictus* Latreille, 1804, making Crawford's species a junior secondary homonym of *Halictus fasciatus* Nylander, 1848 (= *Halictus tumulorum* (Linnaeus, 1758)), so Vachal (1903) proposed the new name, *Halictus (Agapostemon) plurifasciatus* Vachal 1903. The same also occurred for *A. coloradensis* Crawford, 1901, which Vachal (1903) renamed *H. (A.) coloradinus* Vachal, 1903. These specific epithets were used by Sandhouse (1936), though Cockerell (1937) and Michener (1951) believed Crawford's epithet should be used for *A. fasciatus* and *A. coloradensis*; a petition from T.D.A Cockerell to the ICBN regarding Crawford's *A. coloradensis* caused much debate after his death on the larger issues created by these *Agapostemon* species (see Hemming (1950)). However, Roberts (1972) indicated, based on the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (citing ICBN (1964)), "secondary homonyms rejected before 1961 cannot be revived," specifically citing the example of *A. coloradinus* which has been used as a valid species name since Vachal (1903) (e.g. Sandhouse (1936), Roberts (1972), Hurd (1979), Moure and Hurd (1987)). Roberts (1972) also suggested that, if Crawford's *A. fasciatus* were to be recognised as a valid taxon (as is done so here), then *A. plurifasciatus* should be used, but this is not the case as (from ICBN (1999): 59.3. Secondary homonyms replaced before 1961 but no longer considered congeneric): "A junior secondary homonym replaced before 1961 is permanently invalid unless the

substitute name is not in use [applicable to *A. plurifasciatus* since it was synonymised with *A. melliventris* by Sandhouse (1936) and Roberts (1972)] and the relevant taxa are no longer considered congeneric, in which case the junior homonym is not to be rejected on grounds of that replacement". As such, *A. fasciatus* is resurrected from synonymy with *A. melliventris* and Crawford's original species epithet is considered valid. By contrast, as *A. coloradinus* has remained in use in a number of taxonomic (e.g. Sandhouse (1936), Roberts (1972), Hurd (1979), Moure and Hurd (1987), Janjic and Packer (2003), Scott et al. (2011)) and ecological works (e.g. Lavigne (1976), Berger et al. (1985), Osborn et al. (1988)) since Vachal (1903), it is the appropriate name for that taxon (see ICZN (1999)).

Specimens from at least three additional BINs are tentatively identified in BOLD as *A. melliventris*, mostly all matching the general description of *A. melliventris*, but suggesting that there are possible additional species in this species group. Members of [BOLD:AAJ1185](#) (seven male specimens) are from one location on the Texas/Mexico border and members assigned to [BOLD:ABY2743](#) are from Arizona (two female, three male specimens). Most interesting are the four specimens of [BOLD:AAN8220](#), also from Arizona, though with the single female having both the clypeus apically and scape maculated, though with a metasoma that is similar to *A. fasciatus* (based on images available on BOLD). These materials will be covered in a subsequent work on the *A. melliventris* species complex, which is currently in progress.

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