BACKYARD ANTHECOLOGY: Common Pollinators of Central Florida

***Anthecology* is the study of pollination. See how many of these common pollinator types you can find and identify as they visit local blossoms. Record counts and observations in the box next to each group.**

BEES and WASPS (*Hymenoptera*) - *These insects have four wings; some have stingers.*

European Honey Bees are yellow and brown, and carry pollen on the hind legs.

European Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*)

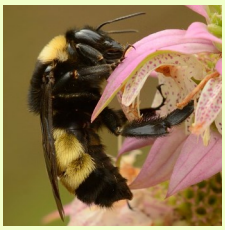
Leafcutter Bees (*Megachilidae*) are medium-sized, like honey bees, but they are black-bodied, and carry pollen on the underside of their abdomens.

Leafcutter Bee (*Megachile* sp.)

Cuckoo Leafcutter Bee (*Coelioxys* sp.)

Carpenter-mimic Leafcutter Bee (*Megachile xylocopoides*)

Bumble Bees (*Bombus* spp.) are large, fuzzy, and noisy, and carry pollen on hind legs in a pollen basket (*corbicula*).



Bumble Bee (*Bombus* sp.)

Bumble Bee (*Bombus* sp.)

Carpenter Bees (*Xylocopa* spp.) are large bees similar to bumble bees, but with smooth, glossy, hairless abdomens.

Eastern Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa virginica*)

Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa* sp.)

Sweat Bees (*Halictidae*) are typically slender bees that vary in color from dull black to metallic green, blue, and purple.

Sweat Bee (*Agapostemon* sp.)

♀ **Brown-winged Striped Sweat Bee** (*Agapostemon splendens*)

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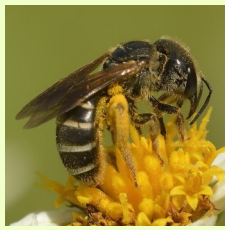
Sweat Bee (*Augochlorini* sp.)



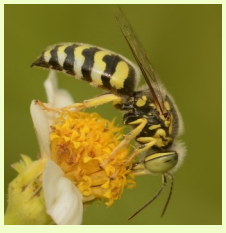
Sweat Bee (*Halictus* sp.)

Wasps have longish, thin, smooth and shiny, hairless bodies with narrow waists, and hind legs that hang down in flight.

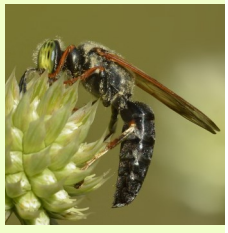
Potter Wasp (*Eumenes fraternus*)

Thread-waisted Wasp (also *Sand Wasp*) (*Ammophila* sp.)

Double-banded Scoliid Wasp (*Scolia bicincta*)



Sand Wasp (*Bembix americana*)



Green-eyed Wasp (*Tachytes* sp.)

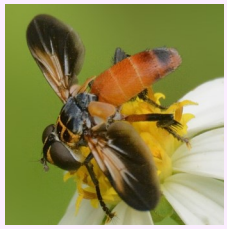
FLIES *(Diptera) - These insects have just two wings, large eyes, and short antennae.*

Many flies are good mimics of stinging insects like bees & wasps. You may need your magnifying glass not to be fooled.

Bee Fly
(Poecilanthrax sp.*)*

Hover Fly (or Flower Fly)
(Palpada sp.*)*

Green Bottle Fly (or Blow Fly)
(Calliphoridae sp.*)*



Feather-legged Fly
(Trichopoda sp.*)*

Soldier Fly
(Hedriodiscus trivittatus)

BEETLES (*Coleoptera*) - *These insects have hard exoskeletons and wing-cases (elytra).*

With roughly 400,000 species, Coleoptera is the largest of all orders of life, and the largest, most diverse insect order.

Six-spotted Flower Longhorn Beetle
(Strangalia sexnotata)

Dark Flower Scarab Beetle
(Euphoria sepulcralis)

(Bald Cypress) Metallic Wood-boring Beetle
(Acmaeodera pulchella)

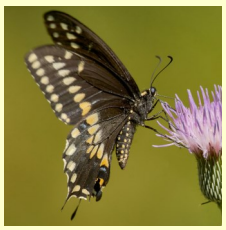
Checkered Beetle
(Trichodes apivorus)

Blister Beetle
(Nemognatha nemorensis)

BUTTERFLIES and MOTHS (*Lepidoptera*) - *These insects have scaled wings in many colors and patterns.* (For our companion ***Butterfly Guide*** see Ed Resources at **www.stetson.edu/gillespie**.)

Butterflies are typically daytime flyers (*diurnal*); they usually have thin antennae with knobbed tips, and colorful wings.

Monarch
(Danaus plexippus)



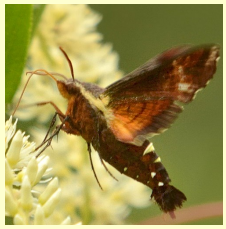
Swallowtail
(Papilio polyxenes)

Sulphur
(Phoebis sennae)

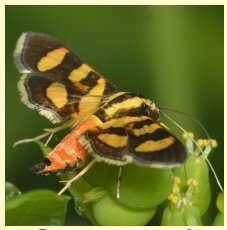
Hairstreak
(Calycopis cecrops)

Skipper
(Problema byssus)

Moths are typically nocturnal, with feathery antennae, thicker, fuzzier bodies, and subdued colors—but ***not always!***



Nessus Sphinx Moth
(Amphion floridensis)



Orange-spotted Flower Moth
(Syngamia florella)

Bleeding Flower Moth
(Schinia sanguinea)

Bella Moth
(Utetheisa ornatrix)

Hawaiian Beet Webworm Moth
(Spoladea recurvalis)

OTHER POLLINATORS - *Keep a look out for* hummingbirds *around flowers as well. These birds, some other insects (mosquitos, ants), and even bats, can be pollinators too!*

***Citizen science data help pollinators!* SUBMIT sightings at https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pollinators-of-florida**

Find out more about native pollinators, and how you can support them at: **https://www.pollinator.org/**

All images are courtesy of Dr. Peter May, biology professor, Stetson University.

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