

green sweat bee *Augochloropsis metallica*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Halictidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

These bees have a shiny, metallic-green appearance and are about one-third of an inch in length. Their tongue is short, so they visit mainly flowers that are open and flat, as opposed to tube-shaped. Like all bees, they have a thick body with the division between the thorax and abdomen easily seen, four wings, hairs, stocky legs, long antennae and eyes on the side of the head.

BEHAVIORS

Green sweat bees feed on the nectar of flowers and the honeydew of aphid colonies. They are active April through September and nest colonially in soil, meaning that many bees use a single entrance in the ground, but branch out to build their own nest. Members of this genus are unusual in that the pollen loaves that they form for their developing larvae to eat are cube-shaped instead of loaf-shaped. This species is active from March to November.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; marshes; peatlands; swamps; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie

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