

potter wasp *Eumenes fraternus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Vespidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

This species of potter wasp is from about 0.60 to 0.80 inches in length. Its first abdominal segment is very thin at the front but becomes wider at the back. The body is black with some markings of an ivory color.

BEHAVIORS

Found statewide in woodland edges and shrubby fields, the adults of this species feed on flower nectar and pollen. The female builds a pot of mud into which she lays an egg and places a paralyzed caterpillar. She then closes the pot with a mud cap. The egg hatches to the larval stage that feeds on the caterpillar. Overwintering occurs in the prepupa stage. At least two generations are produced each year.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; shrub prairie

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