A Bug's Life

Fun facts
- Family called velvet ants
- Not an ant, but a solitary female wasp
- Females have very painful sting, but venom is low in toxicity
- Adults feed on nectar
- Females lay eggs in nests other ground-nesting insect (bees or wasps)

Identification
**Female:** 3/4" long, looks like a large, wingless ant, dense hair, black and bright reddish-orange patterns on body, black legs
**Male:** Black wings, different color pattern than female, some small patches of reddish-hairs on abdomen

Management
- None recommended
- Does not cause damage or get into the structures
- Avoid handling or stepping on, especially with bare feet
- Not aggressive, but female will sting in defense

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Cowkiller ant

Dasymutilla occidentalis

Identification
- **Female:** 3/4" long, looks like a large, wingless ant, dense hair, black and bright reddish-orange patterns on body, black legs
- **Male:** Black wings, different color pattern than female, some small patches of reddish-hairs on abdomen

Management
- None recommended
- Does not cause damage or get into the structures
- Avoid handling or stepping on, especially with bare feet
- Not aggressive, but female will sting in defense

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Fun facts images
- Female cowkiller
- Male cowkiller

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