

A Bug's Life

Wool carder bee

Family: Megachilidae; *Anthidium manicatum*

Fun facts

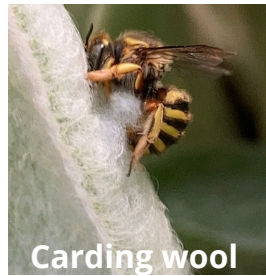
- Most common is European species
- Males aggressively defend territory against bees and other organisms (sometimes killing other bees)
- Females use mandibles to scrape hairs (called trichomes) from plant leaves such as lamb's ear
- Wool used for nesting material

Identification

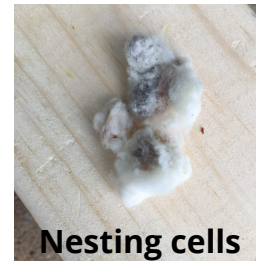
Damage: Leaves of downy plants may have streaks of missing hairs
Bee: 7/16"-5/8" long, stout-bodied, robust, black and yellow color; Males are significantly larger than females and have three spines on the underside of the abdomen, used to fight other bees

Management

- Damage to leaves of plants may look unsightly, but will not kill plants
- Nests may be found in preexisting cavities, plant stems, soil, rocks, and other voids
- No recommendations for the control of wool carder bees as they are pollinators



Carding wool



Nesting cells

Photos: J. Green