

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE SPHECINAE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (Hymenoptera)

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With the idea of recording for this Province, at least a few of the enormous number of species of Hymenoptera with which we are blessed, we present a first list of 3 tribes of digger or thread-waisted wasps, called also mud daubers. The solitary or aggregated mud nests of some species, resembling heavy tubes, are not uncommon under eaves of barns; others build nests in the ground. All of them provision their nests with other insects such as caterpillars (largely cutworms), well-grown nymphs of grasshoppers, or spiders. The steel-blue *Chlorion*, or *Chalybion*, or blue or black *Podalonia* are common sights on the ranges of the interior of the Province as they nervously, with short rushes, hunt their prey. The senior author once took 39 paralyzed spiders from the nest of, I think, *Sceliphron caementarium* Dr. These mud nests readily disintegrate if they become rain-soaked, hence the care with which the mother insect places them in dry, sheltered places.

The best collecting grounds for these sphecoids is a patch of umbelliferous plants in full flower, such as water parsnip, which they frequent in large numbers. The giant of this group, *Chlorion ichneumonium* Linn. is very partial to flowering heads of milkweed.

The 210 specimens upon which this paper is based are the greater part of these insects occurring in the University collections. Most of them were collected by G. J. Spencer who has written the script of this paper; the task of listing the species and arranging the names was done by W. G. Wellington. Cordial thanks are offered by Dr. Don Murray, University of Minnesota, for identifying these wasps.

Tribe CHLORIONINI

- Chlorion atratum* LePeletier, Kamloops, Summerland.
Chlorion bifoveolatum Taschenberg, Lytton, Kamloops, Summerland.

- Chlorion aztecum* Saussure, Summerland.
Chlorion laeviventris (Cresson), Lytton, Winslow.
Chlorion ichneumonium Linnaeus, Salmon Arm, Vernon, Kamloops, Summerland, Penticton.

Tribe SPHECINI

- Podalonia (Psammophila) luctuosa* Smith, Vernon, Summerland, Kamloops, Chilcotin.
Podalonia (Psamm.) valida Cresson, Nicola, Chilcotin.
Podalonia (Psamm.) robusta Cresson, Lytton, Summerland.
Podalonia (Psamm.) communis Cresson, Vancouver, Kye Bay, Sooke, Comox, Mt. Tolmie, Departure Bay, Newcastle Is., Milner, Salmon Arm, Vernon, Penticton, Midday Valley, Kamloops, Fairview.
Sphex mediatius Cresson, Vancouver, Haney, Lytton, Chilcotin.
Sphex pilosus pilosus Fernald, Victoria, Departure Bay, Newcastle Is., Vancouver, Osoyoos, Vernon, Summerland, Lytton, Kamloops, Chilcotin.
Sphex kennedyi Murray, Midday Valley, Kamloops, Chilcotin.
Sphex aberti Haldeman, Summerland.
Sphex politus Cresson, Chilcotin.
Sphex procerus Dahlbom, Lytton, Kamloops, Lillooet.
Sphex placidus F. Smith, Kamloops, Chilcotin.

Tribe SCELIPHONINI

- Chalybion cyaneum* Klug, Salmon Arm, Walhachin, Cherry Creek, Vernon, Summerland.
Sceliphron caementarium Drury, Saanichton, Royal Oak, Cowichan, Courtenay, Departure Bay, Mt. Tolmie, Newcastle Is., Bowen Is., Vancouver, Salmon Arm, Midday Valley, Vernon, Summerland, Kamloops.