

CONGRATULATIONS!

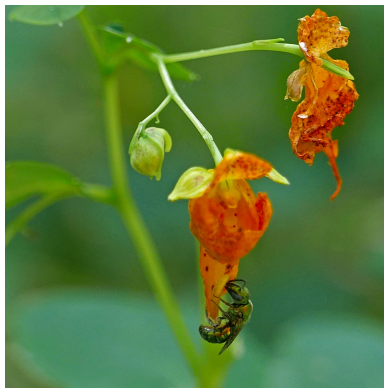


You have chosen a male eastern carpenter bee (*Xylocopa virginica*) feeding on [Monarda punctata](#) (spotted beebalm) with the **flower's anthers brushing the back of his head**. Pollen grains, which have been deposited by and transported to other *Monarda* flowers he has visited, cover the top of his head and thorax.

Eastern carpenter bees are the largest bees in the United States, along with some bumble bee queens. They also are notorious nectar robbers as depicted below left by the female carpenter bee robbing nectar from [Monarda didyma](#) 'Jacob Kline' (scarlet beebalm). When its short tongue, size, or weight prevents it from accessing nectar inside a long, floral tube, it steals the nectar from outside of the flower by using its mouthparts to cut a hole through the base of the corolla. Carpenter bees often make the initial hole in the base of a flower and are called “primary nectar robbers.”

Even when smaller bees—like the green sweat bee (halictid), pictured below center robbing nectar from [Impatiens capensis](#) (orange jewelweed), and the European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*), pictured below right robbing nectar from *Salvia guaranitica* (anise-scented sage)—are able to enter a flower, they sometimes choose instead to take advantage of preexisting holes at the corolla base to remove nectar. In these cases, they are referred to as “secondary robbers.”

To learn more visit: [“Flowers That Attract Pollinators and Robbers to a Garden.”](#)



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