



Alaska Natural Heritage Program

Conservation Status Report

Bombus nevadensis Cresson, 1874

Common Name: Nevada Bumble Bee

ELCODE: IIHYM24170	Taxonomic Serial No.: 714826
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Synonyms: *Bombus improbus* Cresson, 1879; *Bombus nevadensis miguelensis* Cockerell, 1937, *Bombus nevadensis cressoni* Cockerell, 1899; *Bombus crotchii semisuffusus* Cockerell, 1937

Report last updated – November 3, 2020

Conservation Status

G4 SP

Occurrences, Range

Number of Occurrences: Unknown. *Bombus nevadensis* is listed as occurring in Alaska (Krombein et al., 1979). However, in a recent review of bumble bees in Alaska, Sikes & Rykken (2020) considered it a doubtful member of the Alaskan bee fauna; they suggested that *Bombus nevadensis* may rarely occur in Alaska since it is well known from western North America, including adjacent Yukon and British Columbia.

AK Range Extent: Unknown if present.

North American Distribution: According to NatureServe (2020): “This species occurs in the mountain west from Yukon and British Columbia south to southern Arizona and New Mexico. It also occurs in the highlands of the desert West, southern California Transverse Ranges, Sierra-Cascade Ranges, and sparingly in the Coast Ranges, east to the western Great Plains (Williams et al. 2014). Two specimens of *B. nevadensis* were identified in Texas by Beckham and Atkinson (2017); this species had not previously been documented in the list of Texas bumble bee species compiled by Warriner (2012). It is replaced by *Bombus auricomus* in eastern North America; Golick and Ellis (2006) document both species in Nebraska without apparent intergrades. Although it has been reported from Hidalgo, Mexico, the identification of the Mexican specimens is uncertain.”

Trends

Unknown.

Threats

Scope and Severity: Unknown.

Comments: Unknown.

Ecology

Habitat: Open grassy prairies and meadows (Williams et al. 2014).

Known Alaskan Floral Resources: Unknown

Nesting behavior: Nesting typically is underground (Williams et al. 2014).

Parasitism: Host to *Bombus insularis* and likely to *B. suckleyi* (Williams et al. 2014)..

Literature

Golick, D.A., and M.D. Ellis. 2006. An update on the distribution and diversity of *Bombus* in Nebraska (Hymenoptera: Apidae). *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 79(4):341-347.

Krombein, K. V., J. Hurd, Paul D., D. R. Smith, and B. D. Burks. 1979. *Catalog of Hymenoptera in America north of Mexico. Volume 2. Apocrita (Aculeata)*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. doi:10.5962/bhl.title.5074.

NatureServe. 2020. NatureServe Explorer [web application]. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <https://explorer.natureserve.org/>. (Accessed: November 3, 2020).

Sikes, D., and J. Rykken. 2020. Update to the identification guide to female Alaskan bumble bees and a summary of recent changes to the Alaskan bumble bee fauna. *AKES Newsletter* 13: 31-38. doi:10.7299/X7GH9J8D.

Warriner, M. D. 2012. Bumble bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae) of Texas: Historical distributions. *The Southwestern Naturalist* 57(4):442-445.

Williams, P.H., R.W. Thorp, L.L. Richardson, and S.R. Colla. 2014. *Bumble bees of North America: an Identification Guide*. Princeton University Press. 208 pp.