

# Alaska Natural Heritage Program

## Conservation Status Report

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### *Colletes consors* – Cresson, 1868

*Synonyms:* *Colletes pascoensis* Cockerell, 1898; *Colletes zonatus* Viereck, 1903; *Colletes mesocopus* Swenk, 1907; *Colletes myroni* Cockerell, 1908

*Taxonomy Notes:* There are three valid subspecies in North America: *Colletes consors consors* Cresson, 1868; *Colletes consors mesocopus* Swenk, 1907; and *Colletes consors pascoensis* Cockerell, 1898 (ITIS, accessed September 28, 2023). One of the Alaska records is identified as *C. consors mesocopus*, the other two are identified as *C. consors*. We presume that all Alaska specimens belong to *C. consors mesocopus*, as this subspecies has a northern distribution in North America (see below).

**Common Name:** Kindred plasterer bee

**ELCODE:** IIHYM96180

**Taxonomic Serial No.:** 654928

***Report last updated – September 28, 2023***

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### Conservation Status

G5 S1

### Occurrences, Range

*Number of Occurrences:* 3 occurrences, 5 voucher records (University of Alaska Anchorage Entomology Collection; University of Alaska Museum Insect Collection)

*AK Range Extent:* 3,638 km<sup>2</sup>

*Occupancy 4 km<sup>2</sup> grid cells:* 3 occupied grids

*Nowacki Ecoregions:* Intermontane boreal

*North American Distribution:* We know little about the distribution and habitat preferences for this species in Alaska, only one recent occurrence, along a roadside in Kantishna, has been documented in the last decade (*Figure 1*). There is one older occurrence along a roadside in Fairbanks (1983), and one from Moose Creek Bluff in the Tanana Valley (1982).

*Colletes consors* occurs in Alaska and across much of Canada to New Foundland, across the western United States, in the Great Lakes region, and in the northeastern states (Ascher and Pickering 2023). According to GBIF (accessed September 28, 2023), the nominate subspecies occurs in several inland western states and Michigan; *C. consors pascoensis* occurs across the western United States, north to British Columbia and Alberta; *C. consors mesocopus* is a

northern subspecies, occurring in Alaska, British Columbia, and east across Canada to Quebec, south to Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New Jersey.

## Ecology

*Habitat:* Known habitats in Alaska include river bluff and roadsides.

*Host Plants:* In Alaska, this species has been collected on *Rubus idaeus* and *Solidago* sp.

*Life History:* This is a solitary species that nests in the soil. *Colletes* are known as “polyester” or “cellophane” bees because they line their nests with a clear covering made from saliva and glandular secretions that is durable and resistant to mold and water (Wilson and Messinger Carril 2016).

## Trends

*Short-term:* N/A, insufficient data

*Long-term:* N/A, insufficient data

## Threats

*Scope and Severity:* Roadside populations may be at risk from physical disturbance. Additional data are needed to make informed conservation assessments for this species. Steppe bluff habitat faces threats of encroachment from invasive and native plant species (Flagstad et al. 2019). Climate change is likely to decrease the habitat size and range of the steppe bluff in Interior Alaska (Boucher et al. 2016).

## References

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Boucher, T.V., J. R. Fulkerson, B. Bernard, L. Flagstad, T. Nawrocki, M. L. Carlson, N. Fresco. 2016. Terrestrial Coarse-filter Conservation Elements. In: Trammell, E.J., T. Boucher, M.L. Carlson, N. Fresco, J.R. Fulkerson, M.L. McTeague, J. Reimer, and J. Schmidt, eds. 2016. Central Yukon Rapid Ecoregional Assessment. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management.

Flagstad, L.A., K.W. Boggs, T.V. Boucher, M.L. Carlson, M.A. Steer, B. Bernard, M. Aisu, P. Lema, and T. Kuo. 2019. Assessing the gap between conservation need and protection status for select rare ecosystems in Alaska. *Conservation Science and Practice* 1:e47.

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Wilson, J.S. and O. Messinger Carril. 2016. The bees in your backyard. Princeton University Press. Princeton, New Jersey. 288 pp.

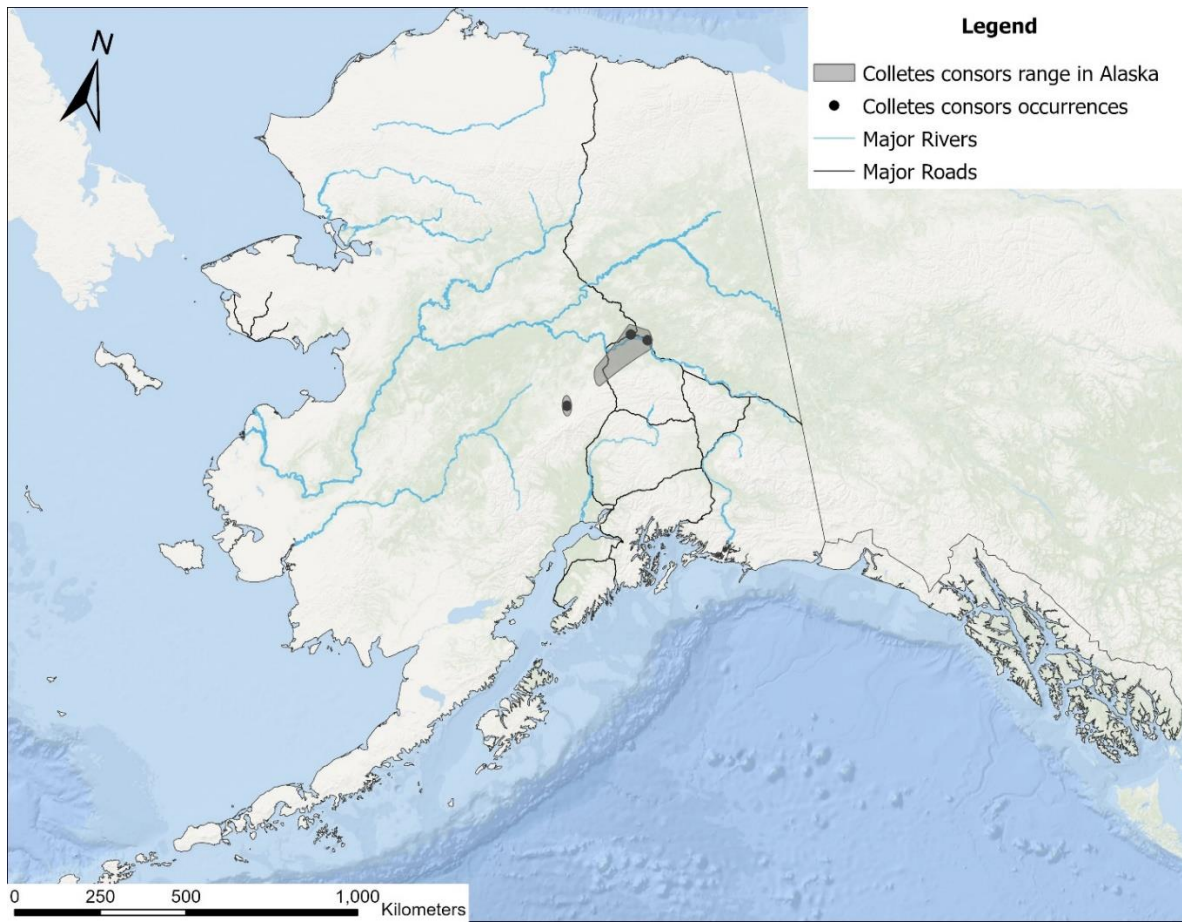


Figure 1 Range and occurrence of *Colletes consors* in Alaska

### Photo Reference



Figure 2 © Copyright Laurence Packer 2014