

***Ashmeadiella sculleni* (Michener, 1939)
(Megachilidae: Megachilinae: Osmiini)**

Profile Prepared by Matthew Shepherd, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

SUMMARY

Ashmeadiella sculleni, known from three locations in eastern Oregon and northwest Nevada, is a specialist forager on *Penstemon* flowers.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Xerces Red List Status: Vulnerable

Other Rankings:

Canada – Species at Risk Act:	N/A
Canada – provincial status:	N/A
Mexico:	N/A
USA – Endangered Species Act:	N/A
USA – state status:	N/A
NatureServe:	N/A
IUCN Red List:	N/A

SPECIES PROFILE

DESCRIPTION

TAXONOMIC STATUS

Ashmeadiella (*Ashmeadiella*) *sculleni* Michener, 1939

LIFE HISTORY

The flight season of *Ashmeadiella sculleni* is in June to mid-July. It appears to be a specialist forager on plant in the genus *Penstemon* (beardtongue, penstemon). Little is known about its nesting habits. It nests in abandoned beetle tunnels in snags and stumps (Tepedino and Griswold, 1995), as do many members of the subgenus *Ashmeadiella*. Krombein (1967, in Michener, 2000) reported that several *Ashmeadiella* species make cell partitions from gummy leaf pulp (probably leaf pulp mixed with nectar, gum, or resin) and occasionally of resin.

DISTRIBUTION

Ashmeadiella sculleni has been recorded from single localities in Baker and Harney counties, OR, and one in northern Humboldt County, NV. Given the distance between these three sites, it is possible that this bee is more widely distributed.

THREATS

Little is known of this bee, making it difficult to assess threats. However, as a specialist forager it is more vulnerable to habitat change than generalist foragers that can adapt as plant communities alter.

CONSERVATION STATUS

As a rare endemic species known from only three localities, the future of *Ashmeadiella sculleni* should be considered at risk.

CONSERVATION NEEDS

Ensure that flowering plants of the genus *Penstemon* persist and that suitable beetle-riddled snags or other appropriate nesting substrate remains.

RESEARCH NEEDS

Little is known of the biology of this species. Studies of both the nesting and foraging habits would be valuable. Searches of its known sites and surrounding areas should be done to confirm the distribution.

RESOURCES

CONTACTS

REFERENCES

Krombein, K.V. 1967. *Trap-Nesting Wasps and Bees: Life Histories, Nests, and Associates*. 570 pp. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Press.

Michener, C.D. 2000. *The Bees of the World*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Tepedino, V.J., and T.L. Griswold. 1995. The bees of the Columbia Basin. Final report, USDA Forest Service, Portland, OR. 212 pp (Technical Report)

WEBSITES

This bee has no web presence.