

Hoplitis producta subgracilis
(Megachilidae: Megachilinae: Osmiini)

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

SUMMARY

Hoplitis producta subgracilis is endemic to the Columbia Basin but has been recorded in a range of habitat types and sites, and thus, is probably more secure than many of the region's endemic bees.

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

Tepedino & Griswold (1995) state that “its taxonomic status is somewhat problematic.”

LIFE HISTORY

The flight season of *Hoplitis producta subgracilis* is in July and August. Little is known of its foraging preferences. Other members of its species group are generalists and it is likely that *Hoplitis producta subgracilis* visits a range of plants including the genera *Penstemon*, *Phacelia*, and *Astragalus* and the families Leguminosae, Rosaceae, and Scrophulariaceae. Michener (2000) says “most species of *Alcidamea* nest in pithy stems and make partitions of chewed leaf materials, sometimes supplemented with pith particles or pebbles.” In addition, programs utilizing trap nests using holes in wood do not recover

nests from subgenus *Alcimadea*. It can be assumed that *Hoplitis producta subgracilis* nests in pithy stems.

It has been recorded in a number of habitat types within the Columbia Basin, including Interior Ponderosa Pine, Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir, Idaho fescue/slender wheatgrass, and Agriculture.

DISTRIBUTION

Hoplitis producta subgracilis is endemic to the Columbia Basin, but has been recorded from several sites.

THREATS

Little is known of *Hoplitis producta subgracilis*, making it difficult to assess threats, although as with all bees, especially those found in agricultural areas, disruption to and loss of habitat and use of pesticides are probable threats.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Although an endemic species, *Hoplitis producta subgracilis* has been recorded in a range of habitat types and sites and thus is probably more secure than many of the region's endemic bees.

CONSERVATION NEEDS

Ensure that suitable flowering plants persist and that 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.

RESOURCES

CONTACTS

REFERENCES

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

Hoplitis producta subgracilis has no web presence.