

Funding for bumble bee conservation provided by the CS Fund. Guide developed and illustrated by Elaine Evans, The Xerces Society. Thanks to Dr. Robbin Thorp, UC Davis.

If you find *Bombus terricola*, please contact bumblebees@xerces.org. Visit www.xerces.org/bumblebees for more information.

The yellowbanded bumble bee was once commonly found throughout much of eastern North America. They can still be found occasionally in isolated patches, but *B. terricola* has disappeared from most of its former range in recent years. Your efforts to search for this bee will help document their current range. The Xerces Society and scientists studying bumble bee decline will use this information to promote conservation of remaining yellowbanded bumble bee populations.



Historic range of *Bombus terricola*

Bombus terrarius



Bombus vagans



Bombus citrinus
(cuckoo bee)



Bombus griseocollis



Bombus bimaculatus



Bombus impatiens



Bombus fervidus



Bombus fraternalis



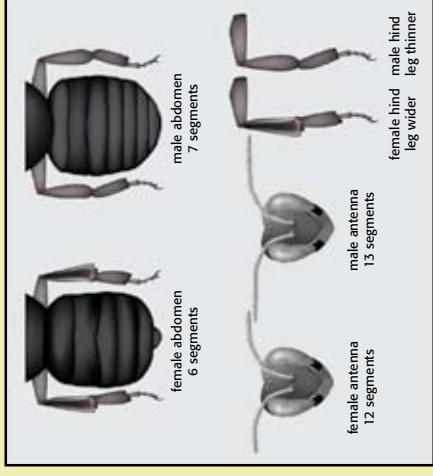
There are around 20 bumble bee species present in eastern North America. Females of some of the most commonly found bees are pictured here. Some species pictured have varieties with different coloration.

For more identification information, visit www.discoverlife.org and www.bugguide.net

Other common bumble bees of eastern North America

Male or female ?

Females have 6 abdominal segments versus 7 in males. Females have 12 antennal segments versus 13 in males. Female hind legs are wider than male hind legs.



Females are found through spring, summer, and early fall. Workers and queens are both female. Males can be common in late summer and early fall. Females have pollen baskets (an indentation onto which they sometimes pack pollen) on their hind legs, and shorter antennae and abdomens. Males sometimes have larger eyes and longer hair.

Similar bumble bees

Females



Bombus auricomus *Bombus pensylvanicus*

B. auricomus have yellow hair on top of their head. *B. pensylvanicus* have yellow at the rear edge of their first abdominal segment. *B. auricomus* and *B. pensylvanicus* lack the fringe of brown hair on the fifth abdominal segment present on *B. terricola*.

Males



Bombus auricomus *Bombus pensylvanicus*

Male *B. auricomus* and *B. pensylvanicus* have yellow hair along the rear of the thorax while *B. terricola* males have black hair.

Identifying *Bombus terricola*



Queen Worker

Workers and queens have yellow on the front of the thorax as well as on abdominal segments two and three. The head and other abdominal segments are black with the exception of a fringe of brownish yellow hair on the far edge of the fifth abdominal segment. Queens are similar to workers except they are larger in size. There is variation in coloration across its range.

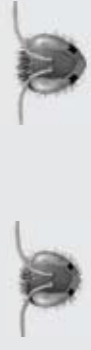


Male

Male coloration is similar to females, except for patches of long pale yellow hair on the top of their heads and the front of their faces.

Heads of similar bumble bees

Females



B. auricomus and
B. pensylvanicus

Female *B. terricola* have short faces whereas *B. auricomus* and *B. pensylvanicus* have long faces.

Males



B. terricola *B. auricomus* *B. pensylvanicus*

Male *B. terricola* have a prominent patch of yellow hair on the front of their faces, while *B. pensylvanicus* have mostly black hair on the front of their faces. *B. auricomus* males have much larger eyes than *B. terricola* males.



POCKET GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING THE YELLOWBANDED BUMBLE BEE BOMBUS TERRICOLA

www.xerces.org/bumblebees
THE XERCES SOCIETY
FOR INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION