

Broad-footed cellophane bee (*Colletes latitarsis*)

- **Field ID tips:** 0.5x size of honey bee. Steel gray, whitish hairs, striped abdomen.
- **Favorite plant:** tomatillos and wild ground cherries (*Physalis*)
- **Flight season:** July through mid-August
- **Nesting:** likely nests in the ground, but no nests have ever been documented
- **Behavior:** Males patrol territories looking for mates. Often land on tomatillo leaves. Females collect pollen from tomatillo flowers by sonicating (buzzing). Mating occurs on flowers.
- **Lookalikes:** none on garden tomatillos



If you find *C. latitarsis*...

- Submit photos to iNaturalist.org
- OR email Tufts Pollinator Initiative (tuftspollinators@gmail.com)
- Take time to watch them and pay attention:
 - Do you observe males and female mating?
 - Can you hear females buzzing the tomatillo flowers?
 - Do you see any entering holes in the ground?
 - For how many days are they in your garden?

Females sonicate flowers to collect pollen. Whitish pollen is stored dry on the hind legs.



Colletes latitarsis can be found in gardens where tomatillos are grown.

