

# Two-spotted longhorn bee

(*Melissodes bimaculatus*)

- **Field ID tips:** 1x size of honey bee. All black males. Females have white brushy scopae
- **Favorite plant:** uses a wide variety of plants, but likes squash, corn, morning glories, portulacca, zinnias, wild bergamot (nectar)
- **Flight season:** late-June through mid-August
- **Nesting:** ground-nesting, possibly aggregates
- **Behavior:** Males patrol territories looking for mates, sometimes weeks before females emerge. Mating occurs in gardens. Females trapline between their favorite patches.
- **Lookalikes:** female *Megachile xylocopoides* carry pollen beneath abdomen and prefer Asteraceae



Nick Dorian

**Males** have very long antennae, and often sleep in aggregations on grasses and sticks.

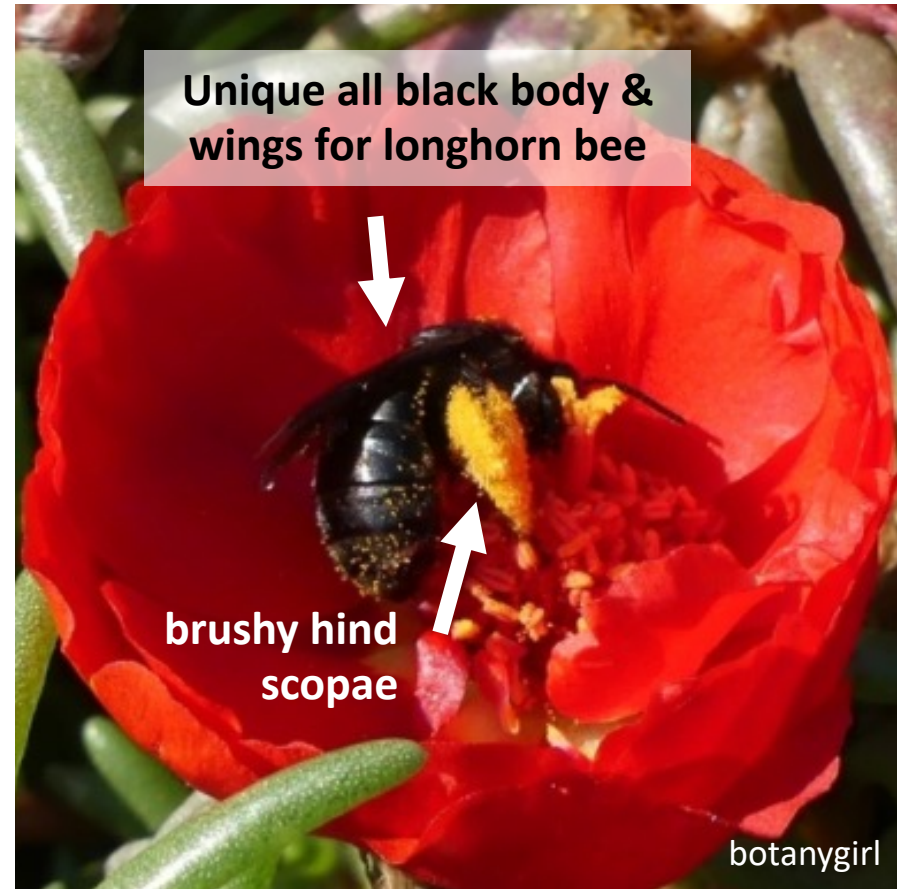




**Females** are more robust than males, and carry pollen big brushy scopae on hind legs.



*M. bimaculatus* female with honey bee on corn



*M. bimaculatus* female pollen collecting on portulacca.

**Lookalikes:** *Megachile xylocopoides* is a southern species (only as far north as New York City), and females prefer to visit Asteraceae and carry pollen beneath abdomen, not on legs.





*Melissodes bimaculatus* seems to be most abundant in cities and on farms.

