Introduced European Mason Bees

Osmia cornuta



Osmia cornuta Male
Image: Jeremy Gatten

This European mason bee has been seen and collected in BC's Lower mainland and Vancouver Island regions.

Buying Cocoons

These bees have been introduced and may become established in BC. Since BC has over 60 species of Native Mason bee you already have a population of wild mason bees, so if you are not a farmer you don't need to buy cocoons. Focus instead on fostering safe nesting habitat in your yard and garden to support the bees that are already there.



1 Recognizing O. cornuta

Female O. cornuta have big heads, they are dark on their head and throax but their abdomen is bright orange to disty brown to very pale yellow depending how 'sunbleached' they have become. Males are coloured similarly but like other Osmia males, have a yellow mustache and slightly longer antennae.

2 Information is Power!

We need more data to know the impact of these introduced bees on native Osmia. Until more study has gone into documenting how these bees fit into our landscape we simply don't know the consequences of their interactions with our ecosystem.

Remember: Introduced and Invasive are not synonyms and Naturalized does not mean Native.

3 Share your findings with us!

Please take photos of these bees if you see them and share them on the platform iNaturalist to our NBSBC Bee Tracker project to help track their spread. They are known to have been found in North Vancouver and in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island. The climate here is similar to where they are endemic, this means they could spread far and naturalize easily. Help us track the spread of these bees!