

SOUTHERN PLAINS BUMBLE BEE

Bombus fraternus

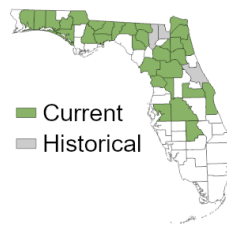
Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Apidae

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S3

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none



Description: This is a large (approximately 2cm) bumble bee with a black band between the bases of the wings and with T3, the third "abdominal" segment, being black.

Similar Species: The American bumble bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) is similar in size and has black between the wings, but the posterior thorax is yellow and T3, the third "abdominal" segment, is yellow in that species as opposed to black.

Habitat: This species has been found in sandhill, scrub, and old field habitats in Florida.

Seasonal Occurrence: This species is active primarily from very late March to late October, with a couple of records for early December and early January.

Florida Distribution: Panhandle and northern peninsula

Range-wide Distribution: Much of the Midwest and U.S. coastal plain south to Highlands County, Florida.

Conservation Status: This species was listed as one of the three most common bumble bees in Florida by Pascarella (2006), and has been documented from many places in the Panhandle and northern half of the peninsula, but it appears to have undergone a decline and its range in the peninsula may have shrunk at the southern extent. From 1998 to early 2018, there was only one publicly available record for the species in the peninsula, although since then, as of March 2022, there are scattered records in the northern part of the peninsula.

Protection and Management: Management needs are unknown.

References: Hatfield et al. 2014, Pascarella 2016



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