

# SWEAT BEE

(*Agapostemon spp.*)

# Bug of the Month



***Agapostemon* is a widespread genus of bees in North America, with 14 known species across the United States and Canada.** Most species have a metallic green head and thorax with a black and yellow striped abdomen, however some species may be entirely green. Their bright metallic green coloration gives rise to their common name: the metallic green bees.

All *Agapostemon* are generalist foragers, meaning they have no floral

preference. Like other members of Halictidae, they are short-tongued and have difficulty extracting nectar from deep flowers. *Agapostemon* can often be observed foraging throughout the summer and fall on plants in the family Asteraceae, such as the sunflower in the above image.

*Agapostemon* can be found nesting in the ground across a variety of soil types, from very sandy to thick clay. Most species are solitary, however some will nest communally. In these

cases, multiple females may share a single nest entrance, but each individual builds and provisions her own brood cells.

*By Rachel McLaughlin*



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