



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

January 2023

Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

Mosquito-borne disease surveillance will resume in March.

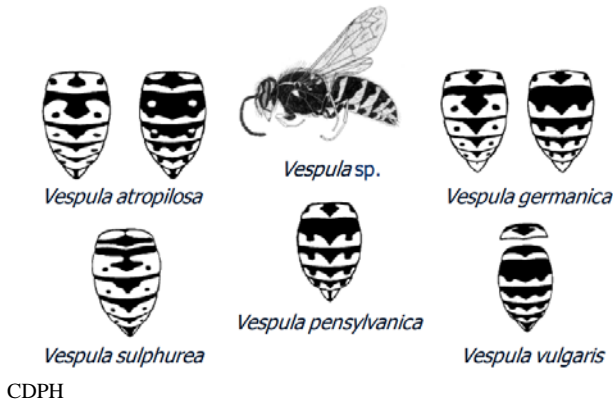
Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito and Zika Virus Update

No invasive *Aedes* species have been detected in Santa Barbara County in 2023.

Wasps of Public Health Significance

Like bees, female wasps can deliver painful stings if they are disturbed, and hypersensitive people may have an allergic reaction to the venom. Unlike bees, however, they can sting more than once.

YELLOW JACKETS



Yellow Jackets

- Social insects with a queen, a few reproductive males, and up to 5000 female workers
- Layers of gray paper cells contain larvae and pupae
- Workers forage for protein and sugar, sometimes in domestic yards and parks
- Nests are usually built in the ground, but are sometimes aerial or in cavities
- Pollinators that also prey on insect pests



Lateral habit of two paper wasps (Vespa: Polistinae sp.)
Image: [Stacy Robinson](#)



A group of paper wasps (Vespa: Polistinae sp.) on their paper nest.
Image: [Alexxx1379](#) via [WikiMedia](#), licensed via CC-BY-SA-3.0

Paper Wasps

- Make aerial paper nests with a single layer of cells
- Common under the eaves of houses
- Pollinators that feed insect pests to their larvae

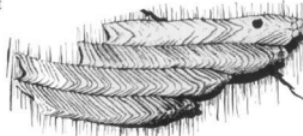
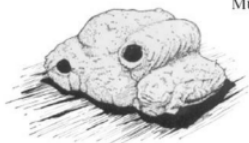


Mud Daubers

- Make a mud compartment for each egg
- The cell is stocked with paralyzed spiders for the larva to eat
- Common under the eaves of houses
- Pollinators—adults feed on flower nectar



Mud Nest



YELLOW AND BLACK MUD DAUBER
(*Sceliphron caementarium*)

BLUE MUD DAUBER
(*Chalybion californicum*)

CDPH

Velvet Ants

- Females are wingless
- Very painful sting
- Nest parasitoids of ground-nesting bees
 - Larvae feed on live bee larvae or pupae



Photo K Schultz

Tarantula Hawks

- Very painful sting
- Tarantulas or other large spiders are captured, paralyzed, and hidden. Eggs are laid inside the spiders so the larvae can eat them alive!
- Pollinators--adults feed on flower nectar



Photo: David Crummey