

## Insect Pollinator Voucher Collection: Pollinator Visitation to Pacific Northwest Native Plants and Native Cultivars

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### Abstract

Planting native flora continues to grow in popularity as a means of conserving pollinator fauna in fragmented landscapes. Due to the limited availability of native plants, consumers may encounter cultivars in their search for plants native to their region. Though consumers have a documented interest in planting native flora for their purported benefits to pollinators, it is unclear whether cultivars provide the same benefits as wild-type native plants. Over three years (2020-2022), we observed and collected pollinators from a common garden experiment in Corvallis, OR containing 8 species of Pacific Northwest native plants, 18 cultivars derived from native plant species, and one exotic perennial plant. Methods for collection are described in further detail in Hayes et al. (in prep.). Here, we report on and document the deposition of taxonomic voucher specimens (OSAC\_AC\_2024\_01\_30-001), which represent the primary species concepts used throughout Hayes et al. (in prep.). Specimens were identified to the lowest possible taxonomic level by L. R. Best (bees, Hymenoptera: Apoidea) and J. J-M. Hayes (syrphid flies, Diptera: Syrphidae). The vouchered material includes 139 individual specimens with at least one representative per caste and sex, as available, of 55 species and 14 morphospecies of bees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) and 13 species and one morphospecies of syrphid flies (Diptera: Syrphidae). Additional vouchers are included for specimens identified only to the morphospecies level, and *Megachile brevis* Say, 1837 individuals that were captured while collecting sections of petals from *Clarkia amoena* (Lehm.) A.Nelson & J.F.Macbr. plants. These 139 voucher specimens come from a much larger dataset, containing over 6,500 observational records of plant-pollinator interactions.

### Introduction

Planting native flora is a popular practice to conserve pollinators and other wildlife in fragmented landscapes. The number of nurseries that specialize exclusively on native plants, however, is limited (Oregon State University Survey Research Center & Langellotto, 2023; Rihn et al., 2022; White et al., 2018). Consumers looking to buy native plants, then, may encounter difficulties sourcing plants (Anderson, 2022, 2019; Brzuszek et al., 2010) or cultivars of native plants, which are not necessarily representative of wild genotypes (Coombs et al., 2020; Wilde et al., 2015). Research evaluating pollinator use of cultivars, compared to native plants, has yielded mixed results (Baisden et al., 2018; A. M. Baker et al., 2020; Dibble et al., 2020B; Nevison, 2016; Ricker et al., 2019; Torrez et al., 2023; White, 2016), and has yet to explore plant taxa native to the Pacific Northwest. We thus selected 8 plant species native to the Pacific Northwest and 18 cultivars of those native plants, to evaluate in a common garden

experiment. We additionally included one popular, exotic plant (lavender, *Lavandula x intermedia* ‘Grosso’) in our trial to understand the pollinator communities visiting lavender in gardens. The other goals of our project were to understand if pollinators differentially visit native plants and cultivars, and to identify potential plant traits that may drive pollinator visitation. The focal pollinator groups we explored includes bees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea), butterflies (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea), and syrphid flies (Diptera: Syrphidae).

## Methods

Over three field seasons (2020-2022) we vacuum-sampled pollinators from a common garden experiment at the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture in Corvallis, OR. Additional information about plant establishment, sampling protocols, and methodology can be found in Hayes et al. (in prep). Pollinators were also recorded, without specimen retention, in some cases. Butterflies were collected in a net for identification, and then immediately released. A single honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L.) was collected from each plant during each sample, but remaining individuals were counted and recorded. A single queen bumble bee (*Bombus flavifrons* Cresson) was also released in 2022 after taking photographs and adding the observation to iNaturalist (Hayes, 2022). The voucher material described here are based upon specimens that were collected and retained only (OSAC\_AC\_2024\_01\_30-001).

L. R. Best identified bee specimens and J. J-M. Hayes identified syrphid fly specimens. Specimens were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible, using taxonomic and identification resources listed in Table 1. At least one representative per caste and sex, as available, of each species and morphospecies of collected bees and syrphid flies were curated for deposition in the Oregon State Arthropod Collection in Corvallis, OR. Additional vouchers were included for taxa identified to the morphospecies level and for individuals collecting petals from *Clarkia amoena* plants. A corresponding dataset containing only the vouchered material is presented here. Current nomenclature and taxonomic authority for each taxon was obtained using the GBIF Species Matching Tool.

The dataset contains 49 DarwinCore fields, including:

*occurrenceID*: a unique identification number and URL to the observational record of an individual specimen in the OSAC museum record. The observational records are not yet connected to the museum’s inventory. For each specimen, the prefix [http://osac.oregonstate.edu/SP/OSAC\\_](http://osac.oregonstate.edu/SP/OSAC_) is followed by a 10-digit museum-issued catalog number, e.g., 0001310208, to build the entire occurrence ID (e.g., [http://osac.oregonstate.edu/SP/OSAC\\_0001310208](http://osac.oregonstate.edu/SP/OSAC_0001310208)).

*catalogNumber*: a unique catalog number for voucher specimens deposited into the OSAC collection. The catalogNumber is the last portion of specimens’ occurrenceID (e.g., OSAC\_0001310208), and was also printed on a physical label attached to the specimen.

*fieldNumber*: a unique identification number that ties a voucher specimen to a row in Hayes et al.’s entire database of collected specimens. The prefix (NNP) indicates specimens collected from the Native Plant and Native Cultivar Project, which is followed by a four-digit year of collection (2020, 2021, or 2022), and a four- or five-digit collection ID (e.g., 00001).

*disposition*: though not all specimens in our study were retained, all vouchered specimens are confirmedPresent.

*datasetName*: Hayes\_etal\_vouchers2023.csv; included with each record to identify where the records came from if they are ever compiled in other datasets.

*basisOfRecord*: all observational records in the voucher dataset were based upon pinned specimens.

*bibliographicCitation*: a full bibliographic citation was included for each record to allow individual specimens to be referenced and the authors to be credited for the use of records in future works.

*license*: specimen records were released under a creative commons license. Non-commercial use is permitted with proper attribution.

*institutionCode*: OSAC

*ownerInstitutionCode*: OSAC

*rightsHolder*: Oregon State University

*Collecting Date*: the date of collection is included across four fields including: *verbatimEventDate* which is formatted as m/dd/yyyy (e.g., 7/11/20), year (2020, 2021, or 2022), month (1-12), and day (1-31).

*Collection Locality*: locality information is reported across 6 fields (country, stateProvince, county, locality, decimalLongitude, decimalLatitude). All specimens were collected at a single site in Corvallis, OR with georeferences consistent across all records.

*samplingProtocol*: all collected specimens were sampled using a modified RYOBI ONE+™ 18V battery-powered hand vacuum (Bioquip Products, Gardena CA).

*associatedTaxa*: all records were sampled directly from plants. Here, we record all specimens as “foraging on” : followed by the scientific name of the plant taxon in quotation marks. Wild-type native plants are listed with their scientific name (genus, specific epithet, and subspecies as appropriate) only (e.g., *Clarkia amoena lindleyi*), cultivars are identified by a name in single quotation marks (e.g., *Clarkia amoena* ‘Dwarf White’) following the genus or scientific epithet. A genus followed by a cultivar name is indicative of a hybrid plant (e.g., *Nemophila* ‘Penny Black’), and plant taxa with an x between their genus and cultivar name are interspecific hybrids (e.g., *Achillea* x ‘Moonshine’).

*recordedBy*: the name of the person that collected an individual record.

*Taxonomic Information*: taxonomy is recorded across 10 fields (scientificName, phylum, class, order, family, genus, subgenus, specificEpithet, identificationRemarks, and rank). Scientific names, authorities, and publication dates were verified using the GBIF Species Name Tool. The identificationRemarks field contains morphospecies identifiers for records identified only to the genus level (e.g., sp. 1).

*identifiedBy* and *dateIdentified*: records were identified by L. R. Best or J. J-M. Hayes in 2023.

**Table 1.** List of keys, guides, and other resources used for identification of bee and syrphid fly specimens.

Focal Taxa	Identification Resources
Diptera: Syrphidae	<p>Churran &amp; Fluke, 1926; Knutson, 1973; Miranda et al., 2013; Skevington et al., 2023; Telford, 1970; Vockeroth, 1958; Vockeroth &amp; Thompson, 1993. In addition to:</p> <p>BugGuide. Identification, images, &amp; information for insects, spiders, &amp; their kin for the United States and Canada. Available from <a href="https://www.bugguide.net/node/view/15740">https://www.bugguide.net/node/view/15740</a>. (Used as a reference for Syrphidae known to exist in the Corvallis, OR area.)</p> <p>iNaturalist. Available from <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org">iNaturalist.org</a>. (Used as a reference for Syrphidae known to exist in the Corvallis, OR area.)</p>
Hymenoptera: Andrenidae	W. E. LaBerge, 1969, 1977; Michener, 2007a.
Hymenoptera: Apidae	Brooks, 1988; CANPOLIN Bee Course, 2012; Daly, 1973; Koch et al., 2012; W. LaBerge, 1956, 1961, 1963; Ram, 1969; Rightmyer, 2008; Timberlake, 1969; Williams et al., 2014.
Hymenoptera: Colletidae	Oram, 2018; Snelling, 1966, 1967, 1970.
Hymenoptera: Halictidae	<p>Gardner &amp; Gibbs, 2023; Gibbs et al., 2013; McGinley, 1986, 2003; Roberts, 1972, 1973. In addition to:</p> <p>Engler et al (In prep.). Draft key to females of <i>Lasioglossum</i> subgenera <i>Evyllaeus</i>, <i>Hemihalictus</i>, and <i>Sphecodogastra</i>.</p>
Hymenoptera: Megachilidae	J. R. Baker, 1975; Bzdyk, 2012; Hurd & Michener, 1955; Michener, 2007b; Mitchell, 1937; Rightmyer et al., 2013; Rust, 1974; C. Sheffield et al., 2011; C. S. Sheffield, 2020.

## Results

The voucher material and included dataset document 139 individual specimens, from 55 species and 14 morphospecies of bees and 13 species and one morphospecies of syrphid flies. We included five *Megachile brevis* Say females that were sampled while they were actively cutting segments of *Clarkia amoena* petals from plants.

## Discussion

The data presented here are a subset of a dataset containing over 6,500 observational records of plant-pollinator interactions. The vouchered specimens represent over 30 pollinator genera that vary in their life histories: from highly abundant eusocial species (e.g., *Apis mellifera* and *Bombus vosnesenskii*), to uncommon eusocial species (*Bombus caliginosus*), as well as several pollen-specialist taxa (*Diadasia nigrifrons*, *Megachile apicalis*, *M. fidelis*, *M. gravita*, *Melissodes clarkiae*, *Me. lupinus*, *Me. microstictus*). These specimens are currently being used to help understand the pollinator communities visiting native plants, native cultivars, and lavender in Oregon, and may have further applications for use in understanding pollinator foraging preferences as well as non-trophic herbivory.

## Acknowledgements

Our research was conducted, and samples were collected “within the traditional homelands of the Mary’s River, or Ampinefu Band of Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 (Kalapuya etc. Treaty), Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to reservations in Western Oregon. Today, living descendants of these people are a part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (<https://www.grandronde.org>) and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians (<https://ctsi.nsn.us>)” (Kaku-Ixt Mana Ina Haws, 2016 Nov 8).

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