

# Sable Island Sweat Bee

*Lasioglossum sablense*

**STATUS**

Threatened 

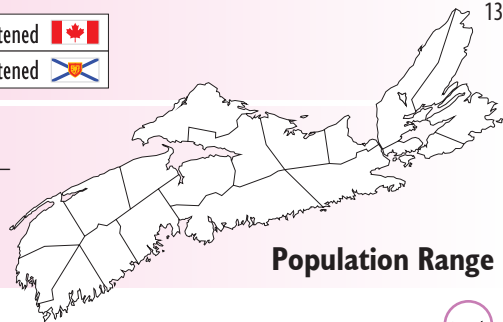
Threatened 

131



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The Sable Island Sweat Bee is endemic to Sable Island — meaning that it cannot be found anywhere else in the world.



**Population Range**



## Habitat

It resides on only Sable Island - an island measuring approximately 34 km<sup>2</sup> in size and located around 290 km southeast of Halifax. It is a ground-nesting insect that prefers sandy soils. It relies on the flowering plants located on the island for foraging, which is challenging as only 39% of the area of the island is vegetated. It is known to forage on blueberries, cranberries, wild rose, evening primrose, red clover, and other floral resources on the island.

## Species Description

The Sable Island Sweat Bee is small, measuring approximately 5-6 mm in length, and has a dull-metallic appearance. The females and males of the species are distinguishable by the difference in the size of their abdomen and antennae. Males have a slenderer abdomen than females and their antennae are noticeably longer. Females also have dense pale hairs on the top of their abdomen.



© JOHN KLYMIO



Sable Island National Park Reserve



Floral resources on Sable Island



Nests found nearby a freshwater pond

Sable Island Sweat Bees forage throughout spring and summer, with females being present between June and September.

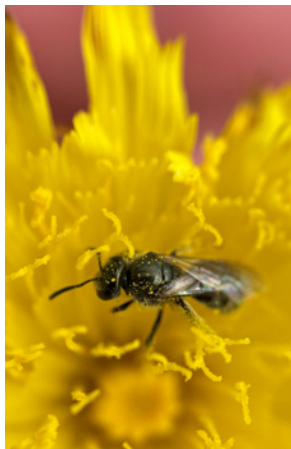
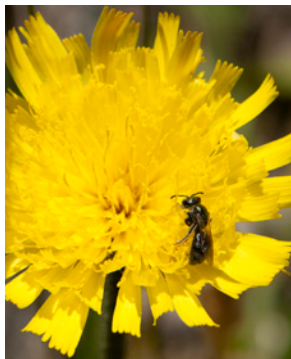


## Interesting Points

- Only four bee species are known to occur on Sable Island; a mason bee (*Osmia simillima*), a leafcutter bee (*Megachile melanophaea*), and two sweat bees (*Lasioglossum* spp.) – one of which is the Sable Island Sweat Bee.
- Sable Island has been estimated to be around 14-16 thousand years old and might have been a part of an area free of ice during the Wisconsin Glacial Period.
- Sable Island is a National Park Reserve, but visitation is regulated in order to conserve the environment and the species that inhabit it.
- Sweat Bees are a member of the subfamily *Halictinae* – which contains some species known to drink perspiration from humans.

## Similar Species

The **Nova Scotia Sweat Bee** (*Lasioglossum novascotiae*) is the only other sweat bee found on Sable Island. The Sable Island Sweat Bee can be distinguished from the Nova Scotia Sweat Bee by noticeable dense punctures on the top of its thorax which gives it a shinier appearance and, in females, denser hairs near the tip of the abdomen.



## Threats to Survival

- A population feral horses were introduced to the island in the mid 1700s, however the extent of their impact on the Sable Island Sweat Bee is unclear and requires further study.
- Potential Introduction of invasive and non-native species to the island.
- Increased frequency and intensity of storms.
- Shrinking of the island due to sea level rise.

## How You Can Help

Learn about the Sable Island Sweat Bee and the unique and beautiful island on which it resides. If you are hoping to visit the island, consider instead exploring the island using the interactive Google Arts and Culture exhibits found on the Parks Canada website. Less tourism decreases the risk of introducing non-native species and can help maintain the health and integrity of the island. If you do visit, make sure to respect any visitor guidelines put in place by Parks Canada as they exist to help protect the environment of the island.

## Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

**Contact:** Sable Island National Park Reserve: [sable@pc.gc.ca](mailto:sable@pc.gc.ca); (902) 426-1500

**Info:** [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca); [www.parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ns/sable/nature/sable-island-sweat-bee](http://www.parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ns/sable/nature/sable-island-sweat-bee)

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Feral horse



Marking nests with metal washers for monitoring



Conducting a floral resource vegetation inventory