

Checklist of the Bumble Bees of British Columbia

Rob Cannings, Royal BC Museum (revised July 2011).

Family Apidae: Subfamily Apinae: Tribe Bombini, Genus *Bombus*

Bumble bees are large or medium sized bees conspicuously marked with yellow and black hairs, sometimes with additional red or white hairs. Most of the species collect pollen but those in the subgenus *Psithyrus* live as social parasites in the nests of other *Bombus* species. The genus is distributed in North and South America, in Eurasia and from the Philippines to western Indonesia. Some species have been introduced to other places, such as New Zealand and Australia.

The following list of 32 known British Columbia species is assembled from various publications and museum collections. The list will probably be changed as more specimens are examined and should be considered preliminary. The taxonomy used is that of Natural History Museum (London) (Williams 2008), a fine, up-to-date systematic summary of the bumblebees of the world, although I have maintained *B. occidentalis* separate from *B. terricola*. *Psithyrus* has long been considered a genus separate from *Bombus* but most authorities now place it as a subgenus in *Bombus*; the four species in BC are listed separately for convenience. Except for *Psithyrus*, none of the subgenera often used in *Bombus* classification are included in this list. **A few synonyms are listed (indents)** to indicate the fate of some familiar names, especially those noted in Buckell (1951), Milliron (1973a, b) and Hurd (1979).

Bombus impatiens Cresson, a common species from eastern North America, as of 2011 is an established alien species in the Lower Mainland. It has been imported into BC as a pollinator since 1999 and has escaped from greenhouses.

Bombus appositus Cresson
Bombus auricomus (Robertson)
Bombus balteatus Dahlbom
 B. kirbyellus Curtis
Bombus bifarius Cresson
Bombus centralis Cresson
Bombus fervidus (Fabricius)
 B. californicus Smith
Bombus flavifrons Cresson
 B. pleuralis Nylander
Bombus frigidus Smith
Bombus griseocollis (Degeer)
Bombus huntii Greene
Bombus hyperboreus Schonherr
Bombus impatiens Cresson (introduced)

Bombus lapponicus (Fabricius)
 B. sylvicola Kirby
Bombus lucorum (Linnaeus)
Bombus melanopygus Nylander
 B. edwardsii Cresson
Bombus mixtus Cresson
Bombus morrisoni Cresson
Bombus neoboreus Sladen
 B. strenuus Cresson
Bombus nevadensis Cresson
Bombus occidentalis Greene
Bombus perplexus Cresson
Bombus polaris Curtis
Bombus rufocinctus Cresson
Bombus sitkensis Nylander
Bombus ternarius Say
Bombus terricola Kirby
Bombus vagans Smith
Bombus vosnesenskii Radoszkowski

Bombus (Psithyrus) ashtoni (Cresson)
Bombus (Psithyrus) fernaldae Franklin
Bombus (Psithyrus) insularis (Smith)
Bombus (Psithyrus) suckleyi Greene

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Available at <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/research/projects/bombus/>