CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Tarantula Hawk Wasp

Pepsis grossa

Tarantula hawks (genera Pepsis and Hemipepsis) are large spider wasps whose sting is rated 4 out of 4 on the Schmidt pain index, one of only a handful of insects to earn the top score. Justin Schmidt…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Pompilidae
Habitat: Desert and semi-arid regions
Diet: Carnivore (larvae), Nectarivore (adults)
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 1-2 years
Weight: 0.5–1.0 grams
Scientific name: Pepsis grossa

Did you know?

- The sting of a Tarantula Hawk Wasp is so intense that it can incapacitate large predators, yet it lasts only about five minutes.
- Its sting is one of the most painful of any insect, but it lasts only a few minutes and does almost no damage, since the point is terror rather than …

What I learned

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