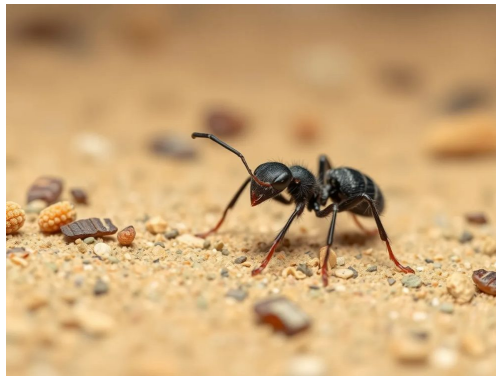


Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Velvet Ant

Dasymutilla occidentalis

The Velvet Ant, despite its name, is actually a species of solitary wasp known for its dense, brightly colored, velvety hair and powerful sting. Females are wingless and resemble large, hairy ants, w...

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate

Family: Mutillidae

Habitat: Dry, sandy areas, open fields, and meadows

Diet: Carnivore

Conservation status: Least Concern

Lifespan: 1-2 years

Weight: 0.02 - 0.05 grams

Scientific name: *Dasymutilla occidentalis*

Did you know?

- Velvet ants can produce a squeaking sound by rubbing body segments together, a behavior known as stridulation.
- Velvet ants are not true ants but are wasps, and only females can sting. Their sting is considered one of the most painful among insects, but it is n...

What I learned
