CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Velvet Ant

Dasymutilla occidentalis

Velvet ants (family Mutillidae) are not ants at all. They are wasps, and the furry, brilliantly coloured animal running across the sand is a wingless female; the males have wings, look like ordinary …

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.
- Every velvet ant you see running on the ground is a wingless female wasp; the winged males cannot sting at all. Its exoskeleton is so hard that it ta…

What I learned

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