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A NOTE ON ADULT OVERWINTERING OF
DASYMUTILLA NIGRIPES IN MICHIGAN
(HYMENOPTERA: MUTILLIDAE)¹

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Although *Dasymutilla nigripes* (Fabricius) is one of the more common Michigan velvet ant species, little is known about its life cycle. In his summary of mutillid life cycles, Mickel (1928) indicated that mutillids of northern latitudes probably overwinter in the prepupal stage within the subterranean cells of their hymenopterous hosts. Bohart and McSwain (1939) cited prepupal overwintering as normal for *Dasymutilla sackenii* (Cresson) in California. However, Potts and Smith (1944), also working in California, collected overwintering adult female *Dasymutilla aureola pacifica* (Cresson).

Observations were carried out during the summer of 1968 on the *D. nigripes* population of a sand flat near Texas Corners, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The study area was approximately 162 m x 36 m. in size and was surrounded by oak woods and abandoned vineyards. An attempt to estimate the population size of female *D. nigripes* of the area involved marking individuals by placing a spot of colored airplane dope (Pactra Aero Gloss Dope, Pactra Chemical Co., Los Angeles, Calif.) on the dorsum of the thorax with the head of an insect pin while the insect was held in position with forceps. The dope dried within a few seconds and the mutillids showed no apparent abnormal behavior upon release. Recaptures of tagged individuals were made up to more than a month after marking in 1968. Similar investigations were made in the same area in the summer of 1969. On July 23, three adult female *D. nigripes* which had been marked the previous summer were collected, indicating some degree of overwintering by adult females in the Michigan population of this species.

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