



<https://beav.es/SSL>

Solitary Bees

Squash Bees

Genus: *Peponapis*

(pronounced pep-on-A-pis)



Squash Bee
11 to 14 mm in length



Female squash bees pack coarse, large squash pollen on thick brushy **scopa** (hair) on their back legs.

Male squash bees can often be found inside squash blossoms when the petals open in the morning and as they close at midday. In fact, they spend so much time inside squash plants that they help pollinate them!

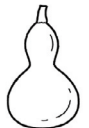
Although other bees can pollinate squash plants, squash bees are some of the only bees that can fully digest squash pollen.



Find the hidden pictures!



Zucchini



Gourd



Pumpkin



Squash bees on the anther of a pumpkin flower.

Color this page online at: <https://placeholder link>

Photo by Hilary Kearney

Field Notes:

Squash bees found in Oregon are medium-sized, fast and fuzzy bees that feed only on the pollen and nectar of plants in the squash family. They spend their whole lives around the plants they pollinate. Females nest in the ground beneath squash plants and males even sleep inside squash blossoms. In fact, the best way to find squash bees is by looking inside squash blossoms in the cool of the morning when the bees are still asleep. Squash bees are new to Oregon and are still making their way around. Can you find squash bees in your community?

Why do you think the squash bee prefers squash?



A trait of this bee is that it is **fuzzy**.
Name a synonym and antonym for **fuzzy**: