
PHOTO ESSAYS

BALD-FACED HORNETS

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Back in August of 2011, I spent a couple days photographing bugs in the gardens at St Peter's Abbey in Muenster, SK. There I met a gardener who told me he observed some wasps that seemed to be feeding on the goo around the wounds that some of the sunflowers had developed. I didn't know what species they were, so I posted some photos I took to Bugguide.net, an online resource, for help with the identification. It turns out they were Bald-faced Hornets - *Dolichovespula maculata* - and the froth on which they appeared to be feeding, and in which other small insects had become stuck, was spittlebug spittle, which spittlebug nymphs surround themselves with as they feed. With all those hornets, I didn't manage to get close enough to the froth to get photos of the nymphs themselves.







Harvey Schmidt is a bug photographer who lives in Creighton, SK.
<http://buggingsaskatchewan.blogspot.ca/>
<http://spiders-n-stuff.blogspot.ca/>

