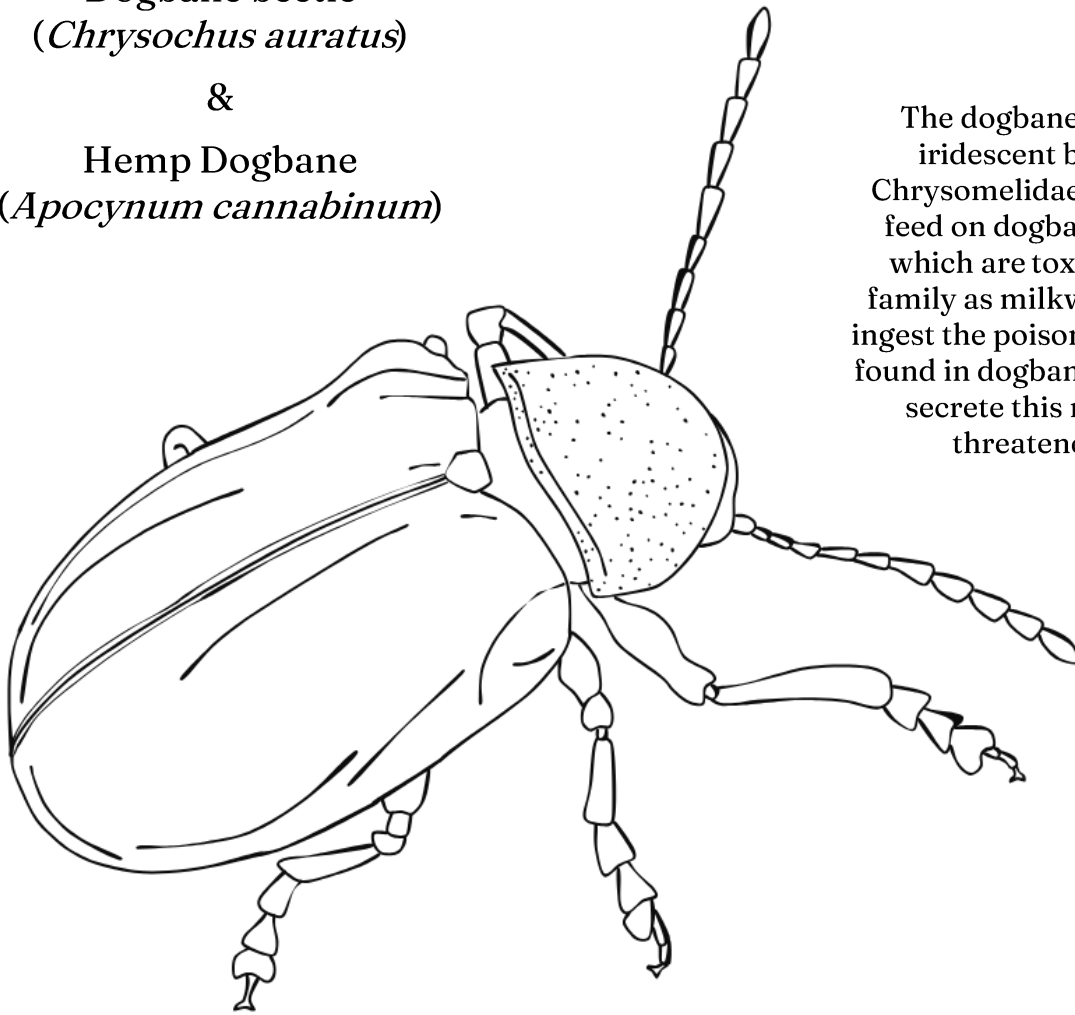


Dogbane beetle
(*Chrysochus auratus*)
&
Hemp Dogbane
(*Apocynum cannabinum*)



The dogbane beetle is a striking, iridescent beetle in the family Chrysomelidae. These native beetles feed on dogbane (*Apocynum* spp.), which are toxic plants in the same family as milkweed. Dogbane beetles ingest the poisonous cardiac glycosides found in dogbane plant tissues and can secrete this noxious toxin when threatened by predators.



Dogbane supports a variety of insects, including the Macropis cuckoo bee (*Epeoloides pilosulus*), one of the rarest bees in North America!



Bloodroot
(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

&

Ants
(Family: Formicidae)

Bloodroot is a rare spring ephemeral of conservation concern in Rhode Island.

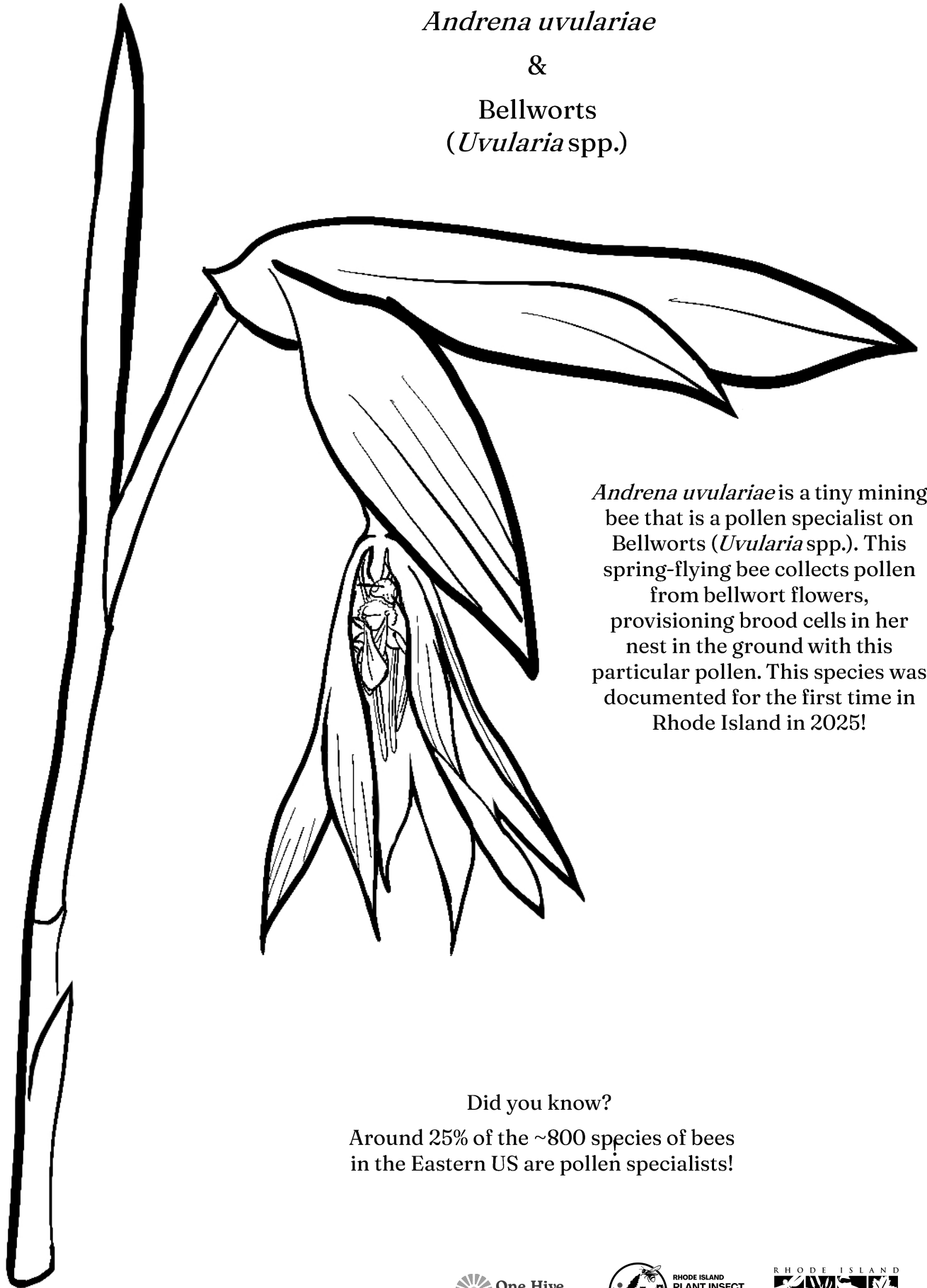
The seeds of bloodroot have fleshy structures called elaiosomes, which are rich in lipids & proteins and attractive to ants. Ants collect the seeds and carry them back to their nests, assisting in seed dispersal. This seed-carrying partnership between plants and ants is called myrmecochory!



Andrena uvulariae

&

Bellworts
(*Uvularia* spp.)

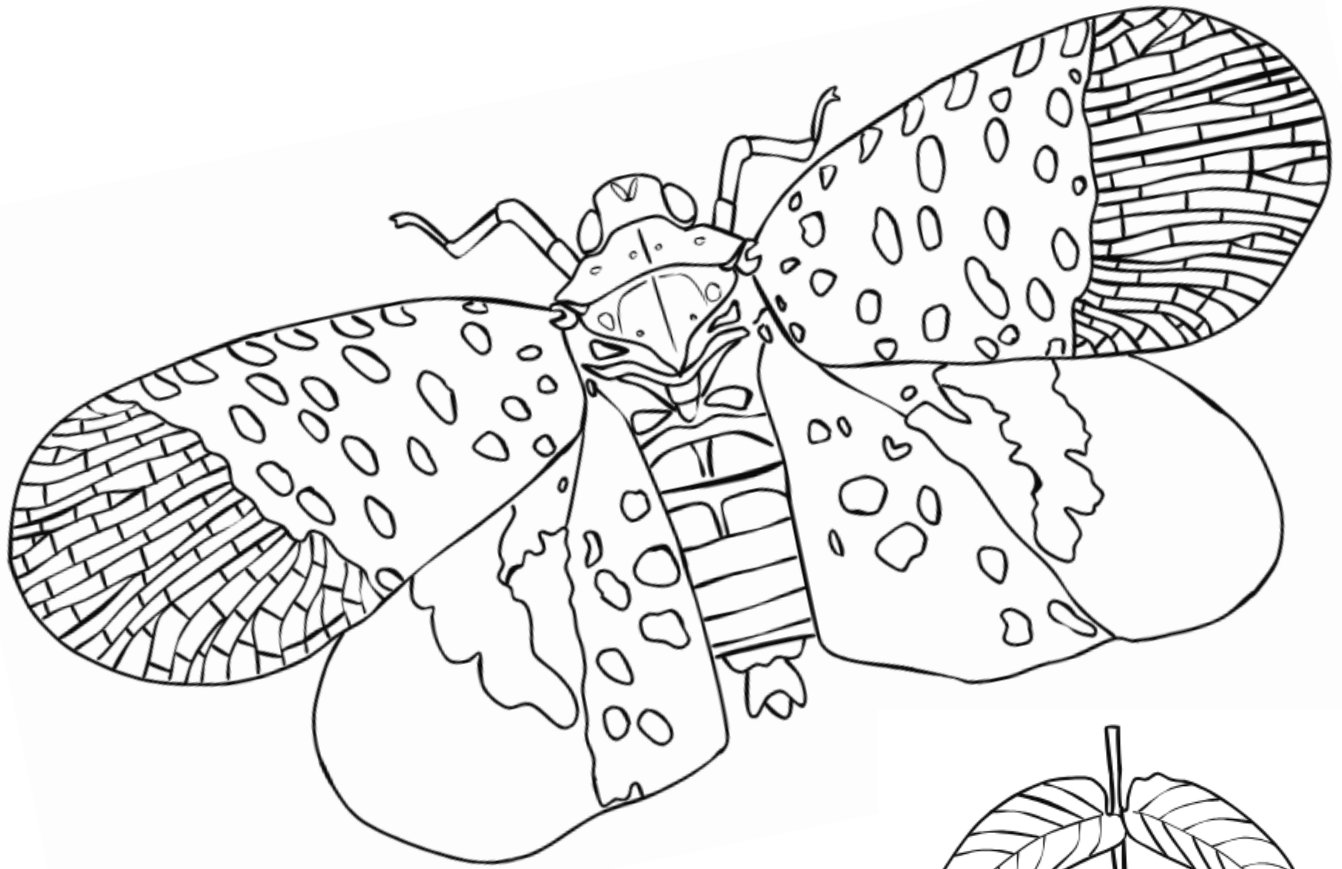


Andrena uvulariae is a tiny mining bee that is a pollen specialist on Bellworts (*Uvularia* spp.). This spring-flying bee collects pollen from bellwort flowers, provisioning brood cells in her nest in the ground with this particular pollen. This species was documented for the first time in Rhode Island in 2025!

Did you know?

Around 25% of the ~800 species of bees in the Eastern US are pollen specialists!



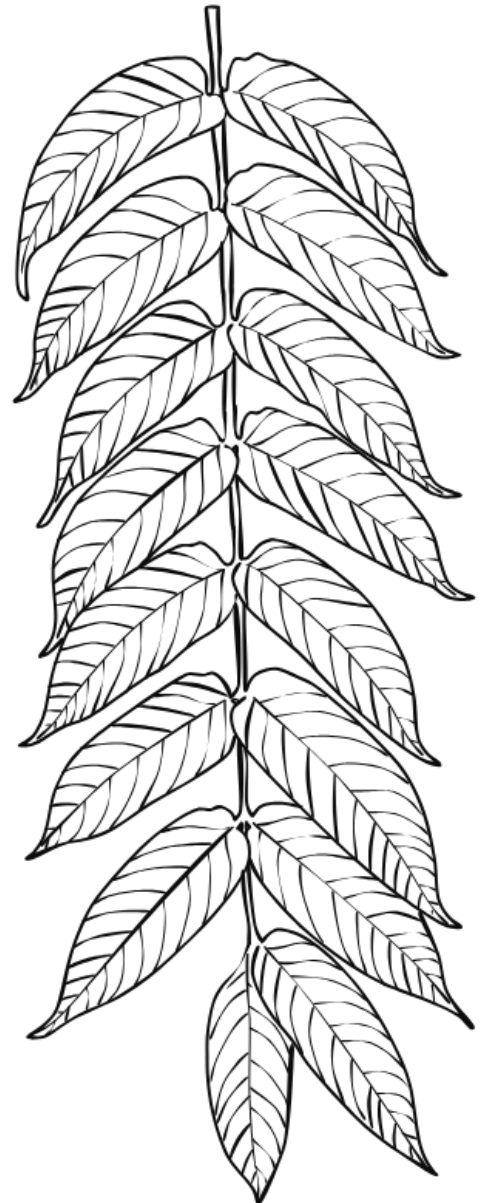


Spotted Lanternfly
(*Lycorma delicatula*)

&

Tree of Heaven
(*Ailanthus altissima*)

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive pest that is rapidly spreading throughout Eastern US. Tree of heaven (ToH), which is also considered an invasive and noxious species in the US, is the preferred host of SLF. Recent studies suggest that birds may avoid eating lanternflies that fed on ToH due to the sequestration of plant defense chemical compounds. One way to help control SLF populations is to remove ToH from your property. In doing so, you reduce a primary host plant of SLF and may make SLFs more vulnerable to bird predation!



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Ecosystem Resilience Through Biodiversity



Frosted Elfin
(*Callophrys irus*)
&
Sundial Lupine
(*Lupinus perennis*)

The frosted elfin is a small, spring-flying butterfly that has experienced significant population declines across its range, largely due to habitat loss. Frosted elfins require pine barrens, a rare habitat type, to survive. As host plant specialists, frosted elfin butterflies will only lay their eggs on wild indigo (*Baptisia* spp.) or wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*).

