

Bumblebees of the World

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Bombus dahlbomii

is the largest bumblebee species in the world. Adult queens grow up to 40 mm long. It is native to Patagonia (southern Chile and southern Argentina), where it is called "moscardón".

Since the late 1990s, millions of colonies of *Bombus terrestris* have been imported to Chile, where they are used in greenhouses and open fields for pollination of tomatoes, avocados and blueberries. The forcibly translocated *B. terrestris* have become invasive in South America, displacing *B. dahlbomii*.

It is estimated that their populations have declined by 80-90%. Disease transmission probably plays a role in this.