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NOT EVALUATED

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DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

Knowledge ^{EQ}
Experts ^{EQ}
Get Involved ^{EQ}

Amazing Species: *Bombus dahlbomii*

Bombus dahlbomii has not yet been evaluated for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is the world's largest bumblebee (queens can grow up to 4cm in length!), endemic to the Patagonian Region in southern Argentina and Chile. Locals and researchers affectionately call it the “flying mouse” and “flying teddy bear”.

This species used to be the only bumblebee in Patagonia and was widely distributed throughout the region. Unfortunately, populations began to rapidly decline following the introduction of Large Garden Bumblebees (*Bombus ruderatus*) and Buff-tailed Bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*) from Europe. Buff-tailed Bumblebees were introduced to Chile in 1997 for agricultural pollination purposes and reached Patagonia in 2006 which triggered the collapse of the native *B. dahlbomii* population. The commercially reared European species were found to be infested with the parasite *Apicystis bombi*, which likely played a large role in the decline of *B. dahlbomii*.

Improved knowledge of the mechanism (e.g., pathogen transmission, competition) leading to the replacement of *B. dahlbomii* with introduced species is required to prevent this species' further decline. An IUCN Red List assessment will assist with guiding suitable and effective conservation measures for its future protection.



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.