

Bumblebees of the World

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Bombus hyperboreus

is found in the Arctic regions of Greenland, northern Scandinavia and Russia. There it lives in the grasslands and shrublands of the Arctic tundra.

It acts as a parasite, taking over a nest, killing the queen and using the workers of different species of social bumblebees to produce its own queens and males. However there are observations of workers of hyperboreus, extremely rare but they can exist.

The reason why the queen normally is living like a parasite is supposed to be that the season is so short up in the far north and also that she is so big and strong that she has no problem taking over the nest of other species. The host is often *B. polaris*, but also *B. jonellus* is known to have had this intruder.