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## MELECTA PACIFICA ATLANTICA IN THE CENTRAL UNITED STATES (Hymenoptera, Anthophorinae)<sup>1</sup>

by

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The bee described as *Melecta atlantica* Linsley (1943) is one of the rarest large bees in the eastern half of the United States. It was described from Georgia and later recorded from New Jersey (Michener, 1948). A single male in the Snow Entomological Museum is labeled Douglas County, Kansas, 900 feet altitude, May (F. H. Snow). Through the courtesy of Wilbur R. Enns of the University of Missouri a single female has been received from Ranken, St. Louis County, Missouri, April 28, 1935 (E. P. Meiners). Dr. P. D. Hurd of the University of California reports (*in litt.*) a single male from Cheaha State Park, Alabama, April 26, 1940 (E. C. Van Dyke) in the collection of the California Insect Survey.

The Missouri female has the thoracic pubescence red as in *M. pacifica fulvida* Cresson, known from the Rocky Mountains to California, and like certain Georgian specimens has some pale (red) hairs among the black on the first metasomal tergum. The red coloration suggests that *M. atlantica* may be only subspecifically distinct from *pacifica*. The Kansas and Alabama males have pale (not red) hair, however, and agree with the characters of male *atlantica* as described previously (Michener, 1948) except that the minor genitalic differences there mentioned do not hold. The seventh metasomal tergum, at least in the Kansas specimen, is more deeply notched than in males of *pacifica fulvida*, but it is often slightly notched in them. For these reasons, coupled with extreme similarity of other characters (as implied by Hurd, 1943), *atlantica* is placed as a subspecies of *pacifica*. From a study of the distribution of western American forms of *pacifica* (see Hurd and Linsley, 1951), combined with the meager data on the distribution of *atlantica*, it seems probable that the species has a more or less continuous distribution from coast to coast.

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<sup>1</sup> Contribution number 873 from the Department of Entomology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.