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Notes on New Mexico Bees

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1900

Sand house

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Vol. 32

NOTES ON NEW MEXICO BEES.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, N. M. AGR. EXP. STATION.

Bombomelecta larreae, n. sp.

♀.—Length $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm. ; general build and structure of *B. thoracica*, but the scutellum is convex with a central depression, and wholly without spines; while the claws have the inner division short and broadly truncate. The maxillary palpi are 6-jointed, and the mandibles have a strong tooth on the inner side. Black; pubescence of the face and vertex pale brown; of the occiput, labrum and clypeus, black; of the pleura, metathorax and scutellum, black; of the post-scutellum, yellowish, especially noticeable at the sides; of the mesothorax, orange-fulvous, short, dense and conspicuous in front, thin behind. Abdomen with broad but inconspicuous ochreous bands on segments 2 to 4, more or less interrupted in the middle on 2 and 4, represented on the first segment by lateral patches, and a few ochreous hairs even in the middle; fifth segment with black hairs. Antennæ entirely black, apex truncate, the corners of the truncation rounded. Legs black, with black pubescence; spurs black, hind spur of hind tibia larger than the other, and somewhat bent. Wings dark fuliginous, with hyaline patches on the third transverso-cubital and second recurrent nervures; venation resembling that of *B. thoracica*, var. *fulvida*, except that the first recurrent nervure joins the second submarginal cell almost at its apex.

Hab.—Mesilla Park, New Mexico, at flowers of *Larrea tridentata*, May 9, 1900.

Epeolus occidentalis, Cresson, var. *segregatus*, n. var.

♂.—Differs from typical *occidentalis* from Colorado, received from Mr. Fox, as follows: Spurs of four hind tibiæ pale brownish, only the minutely ciliate margins black; tegulæ deep orange-ferruginous, shining and distinctly punctured; the two longitudinal pale ochreous stripes on mesothorax narrow, very well defined, not reaching the front margin; marginal cell shorter and broader; wings grayish, not yellowish; light band at apex of first abdominal segment narrowly interrupted in the middle; apical plate of abdomen subtruncate; second and third ventral segments with appressed white hair-bands. The first joint of flagellum is ferruginous beneath.

♀.—Similar to the ♂. Scape and first two joints of flagellum ferruginous beneath; longitudinal stripes on mesothorax subclavate, and attaining the anterior margin; scutellum ferruginous; all the abdominal

Hymenoptera - Apoidea - Apidae - Anthophorinae - Melictini - Melicta (*Bombomelecta*)
 " " " " " Epeolini - Epeolus
 " " " " " Emphorini - Diadostia
 " " " " " Centriini - Centris
 " " " Andrenidae - Panurginae - Panurgini

bands interrupted in the middle; fifth segment with a pyriform light patch on each side. The last ventral segment is dark, a little hoary in some lights, contrastive strongly with the broadly snow-white hind margins of the three previous segments; apex or abdomen very obtuse, the apical ventral segment not produced.

Distinguished from *E. lunatus* by the transverse black band, instead of semilunar mark, on the first abdominal segment. The lower part of the pleura is free from hair, and sparsely punctured on a shining ground. This insect seems intermediate between *lunatus* and *occidentalis*, and it may be that all three are races of one species.

Hab.—♂. Las Vegas Hot Springs, N. M., July 11. ♀. Las Vegas, at flowers of *Petalostemon candidus*, Aug. 11. (W. Porter.)

Epeolus remigatus, Fabr., var. *Martini*, n. var.

♀.—Length about 14 mm. Head dull from the excessively close punctures; clypeus with some larger punctures interspersed, and a more or less distinct longitudinal raised line; dark mark on mesothorax anchor-shaped, the lateral lobes long; pleura with very little light colour; first segment of abdomen with a broad triangle of black on its disc, the band below the triangle narrowly interrupted; band on second segment very thick, and produced obliquely upwards at the sides, forming an acute angle where it bends; sides of fifth abdominal segment black; antennæ and legs black, tarsi becoming ferruginous, middle tibiæ with a stripe of orange-fulvous pubescence.

Differs from *E. robustus* by the dull, densely-punctured clypeus and face, different ornamentation of thorax, band on second abdominal segment bent back at sides, etc.

Differs from *E. concavus* by not having the last ventral segment produced or curved.

Differs from *E. Texanus*, v. *nigripes*, by the ornamentation of the thorax and abdomen, and considerably shorter lateral teeth of scutellum. In life the eyes of *Martini* have the upper third green, the rest black.

Hab.—Romersville, N. M., Aug. 6, 1899. (Martin D. Cockerell.) This is very possibly a distinct species.

Epeolus Cressoni, Rob., 1867. New to New Mexico.

Las Vegas, July 24, at flowers of *Sphæralcea Fendleri lobata*, 1 ♂ (Wilmatte Porter); San Ignacio, Sept. 1, Aug. 31, ♀ (W. Porter and Ckll.). A female from near San Ignacio, Aug. 15 (W. Porter), is unusually large, 13 mm. long.

Diadasia diminuta, Cresson.

Santa Fé and Las Vegas, abundant at flowers of Malvaceæ; caught at Las Vegas on *Sphæralcea Fendleri lobata*, *S. cuspidata*, *Malvastrum coccineum*, *M. dissectum* and *Sidalcea neomexicana*, on the last by Mr. A. Garlick.

Diadasia apacha, Cresson.

Mesilla Valley, abundant at flowers of *Sphæralcea Fendleri lobata*. Heretofore recorded as *D. diminuta* (Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., XXV., 193). Its nesting habits are recorded in *Nature*, Sept. 17, 1896, p. 461.

D. diminuta was described from the ♂, *apacha* from the ♀; they are perhaps only subspecifically distinct. The ♀ *diminuta* is distinguished from *apacha* by the dark tegulæ and the thorax broader between the wings; the stigma also averages darker. The *D. diminuta* recorded from Juarez, Mexico (Cat. Abejas de Mexico, p. 14), is *apacha*.

Centris Cockerelli, Fox, Pr. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1899, p. 68. ♀.

I have little doubt this is the true ♀ of *C. lanosa*; i. e., of the Mesilla Valley insect regarded as *lanosa*.

Centris rhodopus, var. *pulchrrior*, n. var.

Mesilla Park, N. M., June 24, one ♂. This is the ♂ variety described by Mr. Fox in Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1899, p. 68, but not named. I think it is probably a distinct species. The legs are ferruginous (the hind femora blackish beneath at base), and the basal joint of the hind tarsi has long white hair like that on the tibia. The hind margins of the abdominal segments have distinct pale hair-bands.

Centris Hoffmanseggiae, Ckll., Am. Mag. Nat. Hist., April, 1897, p. 395.

♂ (not ♀).

Mr. Fox regarded the insect which I had described as ♀ *C. lanosa* as the true ♀ of *C. Hoffmanseggiae*; but it differed from the ♂ in its larger size, and entirely different pubescence of the legs, so I thought to treat it as a distinct species. It appears to be fond of the flowers of the mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), on which it was again taken on May 15 of the present year, by Miss Nora Newberry. On May 16, at Mesilla Park, individuals of *Centris* were seen hovering in the air, but not visiting flowers. They were so agile that it was only with considerable difficulty that three were caught. These proved to be males of *C. Hoffmanseggiae*, but larger (13½–14 mm.) than the single male hitherto known. At the same place, the females, their hind legs covered with orange pollen, were found entering their nests, which were tunnels in the ground, about two

inches vertically, and then laterally about four inches. The female is the insect which I described as ♀ *lanosa*, and thus Mr. Fox's reference of it to *Hoffmanseggia* is confirmed.

Panurginus Porterae, n. sp.

♂.—Length about $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm., black; head and thorax with fairly long, thin whitish pubescence; head transversely suboval; clypeus, except the two black dots, and lateral face marks, lemon yellow; face below antennæ without any conspicuous hair; labrum, mandibles, anterior edge and receding lateral pieces of clypeus (which are hairy) all dark; lateral face-marks triangular, their upper limit barely above the level of the upper edge of the clypeus; antennæ entirely black; front above antennæ cancellate with large punctures; vertex with large punctures, a smooth impunctate area on each side; thorax entirely black; mesothorax and scutellum shining, with well-separated large punctures; legs black, tarsi very dark brown; tegulæ dark brown; wings slightly smoky; nervures and stigma piceous; abdomen rather long and narrow, punctured except the broad hind margins of the segments; apex with two sharp points.

♀.—Stouter; face entirely black; abdomen with very small punctures, extremely sparse on first segment.

Hab.—Beulah, N. M. (Wilmatte Porter). The ♂ was taken Aug. 25, 1899.

From the description, I thought this might very well be a variety of *P. picipes* (Cress.), but Mr. W. J. Fox has kindly sent me a drawing of the face-marks of Cresson's type ♂ of *picipes*, and it is evidently a different species. In *picipes* the lateral face-mark is a small band along the orbital margin, running considerably above the level of the top of the clypeus, and not at all triangular. In my table in Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., XXV., p. 196, the ♂ of *Porterae* runs to *picipes*. From *P. innuptus* the ♂ is easily known by the triangular lateral face-marks (those of *innuptus* resemble those of *picipes*) and the dark stigma; the ♀ differs from that of *innuptus* by the dark stigma and nervures, the much darker tegulæ, the larger punctures of the mesothorax, the first abdominal segment much more sparsely punctured at the sides, and the black tarsi.

Panurginus Cressoniellus, Ckll. New to New Mexico.

Beulah, N. M., 3 ♀; near Beulah, Aug. 23, 1899, 1 ♂, 3 ♀. All collected by Miss Wilmatte Porter.