Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Ca

Bee Lab

10-1-1902

A New Bee of the Genus Bombomelecta

T. D. A. Cockerell

New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/bee_lab_ca

Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cockerell, T. D. A., "A New Bee of the Genus Bombomelecta" (1902). *Ca*. Paper 307.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/bee_lab_ca/307

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Bee Lab at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ca by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.

1487

1902g

3878

Duplicate

Berhart

Oct. 1902

Chas. H. Nichols

A NEW BEE OF THE GENUS BOMBOMELECTA.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, EAST LAS VEGAS, N. M.

Bombomelecta Arizonica, n. sp.—♀. Length about 11 mm., black; head, thorax and legs with dull white hair, having a faint yellowish tinge; black hair on cheeks, lower sides of face, labrum and mandibles; hair of pleura, except its upper part, black; a conspicuous band of black hair between the wings; hair of anterior legs long and black, but the tarsi more or less silvery, and the femora with a conspicuous tuft of white hair near the end behind; middle tibiae and tarsi largely silvery-white on the outer side, but the white and black pubescence are mixed, so as to produce a speckled effect; hind tibiae and tarsi similar, except that the tibiae have the outer apical half black; tegulae large, black, punctured; wings pale brownish, nervures piceous; abdomen heart-shaped, with sparse black hair, and conspicuous clear-cut patches of white hair; first segment with a broad band of yellowish-white erect or suberect hairs, interrupted in the middle; first to fifth segments with lateral patches of appressed snow-white hair, that on the second segment broad and deeply notched behind. Clypeus shining and strongly punctured; front rough and dull; antennae black, fairly long, last joint truncate; labrum about as broad as long; maxillary palpi six-jointed, the last joint minute; mandibles rather slender, with a low tooth on the inner side about the middle; scutellum with two short pyramidal spines; pygidial plate long and very narrow; apical ventral segment considerably but very narrowly produced; claws of hind legs bifid, not dilated. Spurs black, gently curved.

Hab.—Tempe, Arizona, end of March, 1902, visiting flowers of *Sphaeralcea variabilis*. The flowers were also visited by *Halictus* and the honey-bee. This species is particularly interesting because in form, pubescence and colour it almost exactly imitates *Melecta grandis* from Algeria, a specimen of which I possess through the kindness of Mr. Vachal. The only obvious superficial difference is in size, the Algerian bee being considerably the larger. The significance of this appears when we recall that Tempe was selected as the location of the experimental date-palm orchard, because its climate most resembles that of Algeria and other parts of North Africa, the home of the date. *B. Arizonica* completely breaks down the supposed difference in pubescence between *Melecta* and *Bombomelecta*; among the known species it is closest to *B. Alfredi*.

October, 1902.

Hymenoptera - Apoidea - Anthophoridae - Melectinae - Melecta

Systematics