

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Ca

Bee Lab

2-1-1904

The Bees of Southern California.— II.

T. D. A. Cockerell

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



Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cockerell, T. D. A., "The Bees of Southern California.— II." (1904). *Ca*. Paper 341.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/bee_lab_ca/341

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.



1904

The Bees of Southern California. II.

Vol. III No. 2 Feb., 1904
BY T. D. A. COCKERELL.

When writing on *Dianthidium*, I failed to notice that *Anthidium singulare*, Cresson, and *A. larreae*, Ckll., both belong to this genus. The following table separates those species of *Anthidium* and *Dianthidium* in which the cheeks are partly or wholly yellow, and the yellow of the cheeks is connected by a line (sometimes slightly interrupted in the middle) across the top of the head.

- Lateral margins of abdominal segments 2 to 4 produced into hollow processes, which look like spines directed backwards, when seen from above. 1
- Lateral margins of abdominal segments 2 to 4 normal. 2
1. First two abdominal segments with the yellow bands divided into spots (Nevada) . . *Dianthidium singulare* (Cresson)
- First two abdominal segments with the yellow bands deeply notched, but not divided (Southern California)
- D. singulare* var. *perluteum*, n. nov.
2. Pulvillus present; legs red (New Mexico)
- Dianthidium larreae* (Ckll.)
- Pulvillus absent; legs yellow and black. 3
3. Dorsal pubescence of thorax white (Southern California)
- Anthidium serranum*, n. sp.
- Dorsal pubescence of head and thorax pale fuscous. 4
4. Femora with much yellow (Nevada, California)
- A. illustre*, Cresson
- Femora black (Nevada) *A. conspicuum*, Cresson
- Dianthidium singulare* var. *perluteum*, T. & W. Ckll., n. var.

Female, length 12½ mm., expanse of wings about 24 mm.; clypeus yellow without any central black dot; supraclypeal mark triangular; yellow bands on first two abdominal segments entire (i. e. not interrupted), with large, rounded, sublateral posterior notches; abdomen strongly punctured.

Two collected by Dr. Davidson; Wilson's Peak and Strawberry Valley, California. It is much to be desired that the habits of this remarkable insect should be made known.

Anthidium illustre, Cresson.

Nevada is the type locality. Fowler has described the male from Redlands, California. Dr. Davidson has collected two females and a male at Los Angeles.

Anthidium serranum, n. sp.

Male, length about $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; similar to male **A. illustre**, but not so large, and the pubescence, even on thoracic dorsum is white; the color and markings are practically the same in the two species. The last dorsal segment of the abdomen is yellow, and not so deeply notched as in **A. illustre**, the incision being about twice as broad as deep, with rather a curved margin, whereas in **illustre** it is more angular, with straight sides; the median tooth (at the bottom of the incision) is narrow and black, and is separated by a yellow area from the black longitudinal mark at the base of the segment, whereas in **illustre** this tooth is very broad (triangular) and broadly united by a black band with the base of the segment. The genitalia are of the same type in both species, the parts in **illustre** being more robust. **A. serranum** has a yellow mark on the scape, and the third antennal segment shows a yellow spot.

Hab.—Rock Creek, Calif., one specimen taken by Dr. Davidson. Named after Father Serra, the founder of the California missions.

Trypoxylon apicalis Fox—Its Nesting Habits.

BY DR. A. DAVIDSON

This wasp is somewhat frequently met with in the neighborhood of Los Angeles. The young are bred in the hollow stems of plants, the parent apparently utilizing any suitable stem of a medium size. The variable diameter of the stems occupied by this wasp, and the frequent discovery of other species of wasps or even bees, in the same cavity has led me to infer that this species does not usually excavate its own nesting site. The hollow stem adopted is divided into cells by concavo-convex discs of clay, the concavity in every instance facing upwards. These discs are inserted at very irregular intervals, so that the cells vary from half an inch to four inches in length. The cocoons are straw colored, fragile, diaphanous shells one-half inch long, and one-eighth of an inch wide. If, as frequently happens, the cocoon when woven is too small to fill the cavity in which it lies it is not as is most frequently the case with other wasps simply attached to the sides, but is neatly suspended in the center of the stem cavity, so that on cross section it appears like a wheel with the cocoon as a hub and the irregular suspending threads as spokes. The suspending threads are frequently very few in number, in one instance I found it centrally supported by only four threads. The suspending of the cocoon must in