12-1-1908

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T. D. A. Cockerell
University of Colorado

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A new Bee from Tahiti.

By T. D. A. Cockerell.

When Mr. R. W. Doane wrote that he was starting for Tahiti, I begged him to look out for bees; as, to the best of my knowledge, not a single species had been recorded from that locality*. He has brought home two species; the larger, represented by three females, proves to be Lithurgus atratiformis, Ckll., the smaller is a new Megachile. All were collected in August, 1908. L. atratiformis has hitherto been known only from the warmer parts of Australia; the specimens from Tahiti are about 1 mm. smaller than the type, but otherwise identical.

Megachile doanei n. sp.

♂ Length, about 10 mm., with a large head and short abdomen; general appearance almost exactly like that of the S. African M. latitarsis Friese, though the abdomen is shorter. Black, without any red color except that due to pubescence; head large; eyes dark purplish; antennae long and slender, entire black, not expanded at apex; mandibles tridentate, and with the usual basal inferior tooth; face densely covered with long creamy-white hair, tinged with ochreous about the level of the upper part of the clypeus, and from this level upwards black along orbital margins; vertex dull and very densely punctured, with pale yellowish hair, except about ocelli, where it is black; thorax with yellowish-white hair, but it is pale ochreous on scutellum, and black on disc of mesothorax and middle of pleura; mesothorax and pleura dull and very densely and minutely punctured; tegulae black; wings strongly dusky, the nervures and stigma black; legs black, the hair on femora pale, on tibiae black or almost, on hind tarsi black on outer and copper red on inner side; on middle tarsi, copper red on both sides, except a little pale yellowish at base beneath; anterior tarsi a little flattened and broadened (basitarsus not much over twice as long as broad), with a strong yellowish-white fringe of hair; claws cleft at apex; abdomen broad and short, rather shining, the first segment with long pale ochreous hair, and indications of a red apical fringe; third to fourth each with narrow orange-red apical hair bands; fifth covered with orange-red hair, except at extreme base of middle; sixth with orange-red hair at sides and paler in the middle; apex of sixth segment produced into two widely separated prominent blunt teeth, the interval between them strongly concave; seventh segment without teeth or spines.


This species is related to several which inhabit Australia. It also appears to be close to M. diligens Smith, from Honolulu; differing in the black hair on the thorax, and other particulars.

* I find, however, one record of a bee from Tahiti: Lithurgus albosimbriatus Sichel Reiseder Novara, 1867. This species is also known from Samoa.