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offspring. A few of the genera are considered parasitic, utilizing for their own progeny the stores of honey and pollen so laboriously laid up by other species of bees. Such worthless individuals are unprovided with instruments for gathering pollen, whereas those which honestly toil to provide for the securing of their progeny, have brushes of stiff hairs either on the legs or abdomen with which to gather and transport pollen.

The females of *Anthophora* and *Melisodes*, resemble small humble bees, and have stiff brushes on the hind legs for carrying pollen. They construct burrows in the earth in which to deposit their eggs, each of which is placed in a ball of pollen and honey.

The species of *Andrena* are numerous and the females transport their pollen by means of the long hairs which clothe their thighs. They sink shafts in light soils to a depth of a few inches, and at intervals make short side tunnels, each of which forms a cell for the reception of an egg and its store of nourishment. This food is apparently gathered indiscriminately from any flowering plant, even such kinds as sumac and poison-ivy are fully garnered.

Halictus also contains a number of small bees which it is difficult to distinguish from the preceding, and which have the same habits almost. Some of the species are very small—the smallest of our bees—and these usually have a semi-metallic lustre. The larger species have bands of silvery hair across the abdomen.

Our most brilliant bees are two species which belong to the genus *Augochlora*. They are of a beautiful golden-green color, and may often be seen entering burrows in dead wood, or may be captured upon the flowers which they visit for honey and pollen. *Agapostemon tricolor* is a closely allied and very pretty insect, easily distinguished by its tri-colored markings of green, yellow and black. There are four or five species of pretty little red bees, considered to be parasitic in their habits, which belong to *Nomada*. *N. americana* has the abdomen entirely red; the others have more or less distinct bands or markings of yellow.



Fig. 11.

The bees belonging to the genus *Megachile* (Fig. 11) *M. brevis* number fifteen to twenty species, and have the very interesting habit of forming the cells of their nest with morsels of leaves. With her long, sharp mandibles the female cuts out, as quickly and perfectly as with a pair of scissors, a portion of the leaf of a rose, maple, locust or other plant, and grasping it with her feet flies off to the hole that she has chosen in some old log or stump. This hole is lined internally with the pieces of leaves, which form a cylinder, and when a sufficient length for a cell has been completed, a ball of honey and pollen containing an egg is deposited and the cell is covered by circular morsels, and another commenced. This process is continued until the hole or crevice is filled. The labour thus performed by these "leaf-cutters" or upholstering bees is very great, for it requires the clipping and transportation of several hundreds of leaf fragments. The *Megachiles* are larger than the bees of the preceding genera, and some equal the honey bee in size. They are black with pubescence varying in colour, and on the under part of the abdomen of the female the hairs are stiff and form a brush for the collection of pollen. The males of many of the species have the anterior tarsi (feet), broadly dilated and fringed with long hair, a character which makes them easily distinguishable.

Osmia contains also a number of species in which the females have a brush under the abdomen, but the insects have generally a more or less metallic, often greenish or bluish, lustre, and have not the leaf cutting habits of the foregoing genus. They select for nesting

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