

To the genus *Prosopis* belong bees with coal-black and naked bodies. These bees are said to fill their brood-cells "with a mixture of disgorged honey and pollen." The cells are lined with a hard cement which is smoothed out with the broad, short tongue, and gives the appearance of earthenware. Although not strictly confined to certain flowers for their food supply, they habitually choose strongly-scented ones for this purpose.

The species of *Sphacodes*, also black or black and red bees with comparatively naked bodies, have similar habits with those of the preceding genus. The tongues in these are a trifle longer, and hence their possessors are less restricted in their foraging.

The species of *Halictus* are still more favored in their development of tongue and pollen-gathering apparatus, and accordingly visit more flowers in their season for food for self and young. The genus is very extensive and contains some of our smallest bees, a few of them measuring less than one thirtieth of an inch in length. Only a comparatively few of the many species found in our State have been named, hence the worker must first see to this important work before he can record any possible special habits belonging to any given form.

Our most brightly-colored bees, belong to the genera *Augochlora* and *Agapostemon*, both of which are made up of forms having their bodies in part or entirely metallic green or blue. Some of these also are very small, and are as yet unnamed.

The genus *Andrena* is perhaps the largest one belonging to our fauna, and like *Halictus* is made up of forms most of which are new to science. As shown by the illustration these bees are admirably fitted for collecting pollen with which they provision their nests.

The genus *Nomia* comprises but three or four distinct specimens related to *Andrena* in habit but differing much in the structure of the hind legs and antennæ of the males. *Eunoimia* also belongs near here. It has but two representatives of our fauna.

The genera *Macropis*, *Megacillissa*, *Panurgus*, *Calliopsis* and *Perdita*, with possibly one or two others, are represented by from one to several species each. None of these have been studied with sufficient care to warrant our trying to give their habits at this time.

In the genus *Nomada* we have bunched an extensive series of brightly-marked small to medium-sized wasp-like parasitic bees. These are loafers that through disease, possibly, have lost the pollen-gathering and carrying arrangements that at one

time may have belonged to their ancestors. Living as they do in the nests of different species of *Andrena* and *Halictus*, each with some particular host, there are many species of them.

Another genus of these parasitic bees quite common to Nebraska is *Eucopis*, the various species of which live in the nests of *Colletes*.

*Melecta*, *Stelis* and *Coelioxys* are also genera of the cuckoo tribe. They impose the caring and rearing of their young respectively upon the members of the genera *Anthophora*, *Osmia* and *Megachile*.

The different species of the genus *Osmia* are usually metallic green or blue, but others are plain black. These bees with several other genera are provided with pollen-gathering hairs upon the ventral side of the abdomen. Some of them nest in the ground, others in the wood or the stems of plants, and still others are said to select the deserted shells of snails for that purpose.

*Heriades*, *Monumentella*, *Anthidium* and *Lithurgus* are allied genera with but few representatives in our State.

To the genus *Megachile*, which is an extensive one, belong the leaf-cutters. These are, for the most part, rather large, robust bees which are very thickly clothed with long hairs. They construct their nests in the stems of plants or in burrows of partly rotten wood, and make the cells of carved pieces of leaves which they cut for the purpose. One species of the genus is especially fond of red clover blossoms, and no doubt does much towards fertilizing them.

One of our prettiest little bees in the State is a member of the genus *Ceratina*. It is bluish-green and has the habit of excavating the pith from brambles, briars and other similar plants. As it is without the pollen-gathering hairs either upon its legs or body, and rather than be a "cuckoo," it feeds its larvæ with a semi fluid honey.

The genera *Eucera*, *Melissodes*, *Xenoglossa*, *Synhalonia*, and *Dadasia*, are mostly rather large bees in which the antennæ of the males are much longer than in the females. (Quire a number of species are to be met with in our State.)

*Emphor*, *Habropoda*, *Anthophora* and *Clissodon* are also large bees which are fairly well represented here.

The carpenter-bee, *Xylocopa*, is also one of our wild bees. This is the large blue-black and yellow bee that makes its nest in holes made by itself in solid wood.

Of course *Bombus*, to which belong our various bumble-bee, is rather well represented here; and almost every school boy or girl can tell of more than one thrilling ex-