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## BEES VISITING HELIANTHUS.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, BOULDER, COLORADO.

The genus *Helianthus*, consisting of the annual and perennial sunflowers, is native only in America, though widely cultivated in the Old World. The common sunflower, *H. annuus*, is wholly sterile with its own pollen, and has to be visited by insects in order to produce seed. Presumably the same is true of the other species of the genus. The insects carrying the pollen are various, but the bees are far more important than all the rest combined; their incessant activity can only be appreciated by one who has worked with sunflowers throughout the summer.

At Goodview, Colorado, August 2, 1913. I took a census of insects on flowers of cultivated *H. annuus* (var. *coronatus*) for a short time, with this result: *Andrena helianthi*, 12; *Halictoides marginatus* (perhaps some were *Halictus*), 9; *Halictus armaticeps*, 4; *Melissodes*, 2 ♂, 1 ♀; *Panurginus innuptus*, 1; *Apis mellifera ligustica*, 1; *Syrphid*, 1. These were recognized as they flew, but on July 18, I collected a series of bees from the same flowers, at the same place, and found I had *Andrena helianthi* Rob., *Halictus armaticeps* Cress., *Halictoides marginatus* (Cr.), *Panurginus innuptus* (Ckll.), both sexes, *Melissodes aurigena* Cress., ♀, *M. confusiformis* Ckll., ♀, and *Megachile agustini* Ckll., ♂.

The domesticated honey-bee, belonging to the Old World genus, is here an insignificant factor in sunflower pollination. Mr. Collins of Boulder, who has many hives of bees, informs me that they do not go to sunflowers unless the supply of other nectar runs short. When they do make honey from sunflowers, it is very yellow.

The most important sunflower bee, with us, is certainly *Andrena helianthi*. In some localities it is probable that the species of *Megachile*, which work fast and carry a lot of pollen, do more work. *M. helianthi* Ckll. was collected by Rohwer on the wild sunflower (*Helianthus annuus lenticularis*) at Boulder, Colorado.