

A NEW LEAF-CUTTING BEE FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

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Some time ago Mr. P. H. Timberlake requested me to examine the status of a *megachile* now common at Honolulu, but considered to have been introduced from some place not determined. It was very much like *M. palmarum* Perkins, also common in the Hawaiian Islands, but evidently distinct. A few days ago he sent me a long series of this bee, and after prolonged study and comparisons, I can only regard it as undescribed. It belongs to the subgenus *Eutricharæa* Thomson (*Paramegachile* Friese), and is very much like the European *M. argentata* Fabr.* Bees of this type are very widely distributed over the world, so I confidently expected to locate the Hawaiian insect in Japan, China, the Phillipines, Australia, or elsewhere. It is very like *M. erimæ* Mosc., from New Guinea, but has dusky wings. Superficially, it might be taken for any one of about a dozen species, but it agrees with none. It may have come from one of the other Pacific islands, as Samoa or Tohitic, and it is perhaps significant that a Tahitian *Lithurgus* has been introduced into Oahu. It is a fact, however, that endemic species of this group of *megachile* occur in very remote places, and there is no apparent reason why they should not exist in the Hawaiian Islands. *M. palmarum* is said by Perkins to occur probably in all the islands, and it is quite possible that the new species has existed on one of the islands, though perhaps more recently brought to Oahu.

Megachile timberlakei, n. sp.

Male (Type).—Length 8-8.5 mm.; black, parallel-sided, with large head, simple antennæ, spined anterior coxæ and simple anterior tarsi. Face and front densely covered with light yellow to creamy-white hair; mandibles black, hairy at base; antennæ slender, black; vertex with long dark fuscous hair; cheeks above with light yellowish hair, but below it is long and pure white; hair on thorax above and upper part of sides ochreous, varying to paler, beneath pure white; mesothorax and scutellum dull and very finely punctured; a band of tomentum along hind margin of scutellum; tegulæ black; wings dusky with black nervures; legs black, with white hair, yellowish on inner side of basitarsi first four abdominal segments with pale yellowish hair-bands, and narrow curved bands in the depressions; upper surface of sixth segment densely covered with white tomentum; apical keel emarginate, with irregular denticles on each side; fifth ventral segment and anterior femora in front more or less pallid, brownish.

Female.—Length 10-10.5 mm.; supraclypeal area and middle of clypeus exposed; much dark fuscous hair on mesothorax and scutellum; ventral scopa pure white, black on last segment.

Type male, Kaimulai, Oahu (*Timberlake*). Also from Honolulu and Makua, Oahu.

Compared with *M. palmarum* received from Dr. Perkins, the male differs by the denticulate and less deeply emarginate keel of sixth abdominal segment, the more oblique sub-basal bands of abdomen, and the fulvous or subochraceous

*In Friese's *Die Bienen Europa's* there is a curious error in the key, in which the scopa of *M. argentata* is said to be entirely white. It is black on the last segment, as is correctly stated in Friese's description.