

# TEXAS NATIVE BEES

The Jha Lab has been studying native pollinators since 2012.  
Researchers have identified hundreds out of the ~800 bee species and 6 families found in Texas.  
About 20,000 native bee species have been described around the world!

**Carpenter bees** (Apidae) are solitary but can live with sisters or daughters. Females bore holes in wood & partition nests with wood chips. Territorial males may fly at you but can't sting.

*Xylocopa*



Sean McCann

*Ceratina*



Steve Nanz

**Long-horned bees** (Apidae) are solitary but may nest in large groups in the ground. Guess why *Melissodes* is called a long-horned bee!



Sean McCann

**Bumble bees** (Apidae) are ground-nesters; they can forage > 1 km away.

*Bombus*



Charles Schurch Lewallen

**Mining Bees** (Andrenidae) are solitary bees. Most build underground nests: a small entrance leads to a branched tunnel containing an egg.



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Dennis Briggs

Egg on pollen ball

**Plasterer bees** (Colletidae) chew leaves into spit balls to plaster their nests in pithy stems.

*Colletes*



Wikipedia



Female **parasitic bees** invade nests of other bees to lay eggs on the food stored by the host. These kleptoparasite larvae consume all the food (pollen).



*Coelioxys*



© Kathy Keatley Garvey

*Lasioglossum*



Steve Nanz

**Sweat bees** (Halictidae) are common. Most are ground-nesters like *Agapostemon* & *Lasioglossum*. Females can make individual cells in communally nests. Others are cavity nesters. They're called sweat bees because they lick salt from sweat.



©standingoutinmyfield

*Agapostemon*



Discoverlife.org

Scott Famous



Gardeners/farmers use mason bees like *Osmia* to pollinate crops. Some rear them commercially.



**Mason bees** (Megachilidae) are solitary and docile; nesting in cavities, stems or snail shells! Females make mud walls between brood cells and mud packs to seal their nest.

© Chris Worden



*Megachile*



T'ai Roulston

**Leafcutter bees** (Megachilidae) pollinate well; one bee can pollinate as much alfalfa as 20 honey bees. They line cavity nests with pieces of leaves or petals.



Some (*Melittidae*) bees like *Hesperapis*, collect plant oils in dry climates.



Lynette Schimming