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A list of the Leafcutting Bees (Family Megachilidae, Hymenoptera) known to occur in Iowa.

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A list of the Leafcutting Bees (Family Megachilidae, Hymenoptera) known to occur in Iowa.

H. E. JAQUES

Almost everyone has noticed the round holes nearly a half inch across cut in the leaves of many plants. Rose leaves very frequently show this mutilation. The casual observer is usually without information, however, as to how it all comes about unless he has chanced to see a leafcutter bee providing herself with one of the round oval pieces of leaf she uses in lining a burrow in rotten wood or in hollow plant stems. One must watch quickly and closely if he is to see this performance. With her sharp mandibles this agile bee hastily scissors out the leaf disk and quickly catching it up flies away with it. Several cells are placed end to end in these burrows and provisioned with a paste of pollen and nectar. One egg is deposited in each cell where the larva makes its full development, then pupates and awaits the proper time for its emergence.

The family Megachilidae is a fairly large one. These bees in a general way resemble some of the members of the larger family Andrenidae. The legs of the Megachilids lack the pollen-gathering devices of these other bees; instead, with many species, pollen brushes, often brightly colored, are conspicuous on the ventral abdominal segments of the females. Their food habits make them consistent pollinators and since the amount of actual damage done to plants by their leafcutting habits is quite negligible these may be counted as highly useful insects.

The list of 26 species, herein presented as known for Iowa is based on the specimens in the collection of the seasonal and geographic survey of Iowa Insects at Iowa Wesleyan College. It represents more than 25 years of collecting. All of the 99 counties of the state have been systematically and repeatedly visited in these collecting trips. The determinations of the specimens representing these records have been made or checked by well known specialists of the group. The numbers are from our own catalog of the Hymenoptera.

It should be understood that while this list represents a heavy contribution in man hours in collecting and determining the specimens, it should not be considered at all complete for Iowa. A careful collector could doubtless add still other new species to those named here.

- 1928-62 *Alcidamea pilosifrons* Cress.
- 1028-63 *Alcidamea simplex* Cress.
- 1029-3 *Coelioxys octodentata* Say
- 1029-4 *Coelioxys nufitarsis* Smith
- 1029-5 *Coelioxys sayi* Rob.
- 1029-21 *Heriades carinatus* Cress.
- 1029-31 *Megachile brevis* Say
- 1029-34 *Megachile mendica* Cress.

- 1029-35 *Megachile inimica* Cress.
- 1029-36 *Megachile petulans* Cress.
- 1029-37 *Megachile relativa* Cress.
- 1029-38 *Megachile parallela* Smith
- 1029-39 *Megachile texana* Cress.
- 1029-40 *Megachile fortis* Cress.
- 1029-41 *Megachile infragilis* Cress.
- 1029-43 *Megachile cantinularia* L.
- 1029-51 *Megachile latimana* Say
- 1029-61 *Megachile montivaga* Cress.
- 1029-92 *Monumetha inaequalis* Say
- 1030-4 *Osmia canadensis* Cress.
- 1030-7 *Osmia conjuncta* Cress.
- 1030-9 *Osmia lignaria* Say
- 1030-11 *Osmia pumila* Cress.
- 1030-14 *Osmia cordata* Robt.
- 1030-15 *Osmia distincta* Cress.
- 1030-24 *Prochelostoma philadelphia* Robt.

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