



MI Bee ID Cards



MI Bee ID Cards

- Michigan is home to more than 460 species of bees
- This is a brief guide to some common groups of Michigan bees
- Visit pollinators.msu.edu for more detailed guides and other resources from MSU Extension
- Images on front cover show relative sizes of bees. Use the following table for actual sizes as referred to in the text:

Tiny	Small	Medium	Large
<8mm (<5/16")	8-12mm (5/16 - 1/2")	12-17mm (1/2-5/8")	>17mm (>5/8")



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Small Carpenter Bees
Apidae (*Ceratina* spp.)

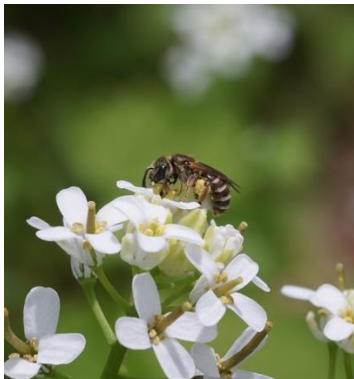


Small Carpenter Bees

- Genus *Ceratina*
- Tiny dark blue-green metallic bees
- Little to no hair on their bodies
- Some have white markings on the face
- Nest in hollow or pithy stems, twigs, etc.



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Small Dark Sweat Bees
Halictidae

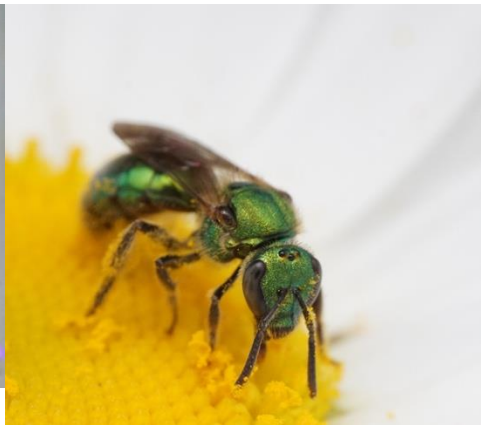


Small Dark Sweat Bees

- Family Halictidae
- Tiny to small bees
- Dark bodies, dull metallic, black or dark green
- Abdomen often with stripes of light hair between the segments
- Pollen often loosely carried on body and leg hairs in a disorganized fashion
- Nest in the soil



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Green Metallic Bees

Halictidae



Green Metallic Sweat Bees

- Family Halictidae (sweat bees)
- Tiny to small bright green metallic bees
- Some have alternating green and white or yellowish stripes on their abdomen
- Pollen often loosely carried on body and leg hairs in a disorganized fashion
- Nest in the soil or in rotting logs



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Miner Bees

Andrenidae and Colletidae



Miner Bees

- Families Andrenidae (miner bees) and Colletidae (cellophane bees)
- Small to medium bees, appearance variable
- Many resemble slender bumble bees with black bodies and dense yellow hair on the thorax
- Colletidae more commonly have stripes of yellow hair on the abdominal segments
- Andrenidae carry pollen on femur and tibia of hind leg.
- It might look like they have pollen in their “armpit”
- Nest in the soil



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Leafcutter Bees

Megachilidae (*Megachile* spp.)

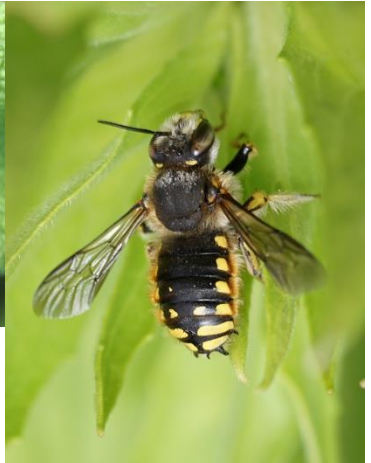


Leafcutter Bees

- Genus *Megachile*
- Small to medium bees with dark bodies
- Light-colored fur is more concentrated on the sides and undersides of the body
- Some species have stripes of light-colored fur between abdominal segments
- Carry pollen on underside of the abdomen (distinguishes them from most other MI bees)
- Nest in natural cavities in dead wood or in the soil
- Common residents of bee hotels and bee condos



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Wool Carder Bees
Megachilidae (*Anthidium* spp.)



Wool Carder Bees

- Family Megachilidae, Genus *Anthidium*
- Medium bees with distinctive black and yellow striped abdomens
- Light-colored fur is more concentrated on the sides and undersides of the body
- Males are territorial and are often seen hovering near flower patches and aggressively chasing away other insects
- Nest in natural cavities in dead wood
- Common residents of bee hotels and bee condos



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Honey Bees
Apidae (Apis mellifera)



Honey Bees

- Genus *Apis*
- Medium bees with orange/black bodies
- Light-colored fur on the thorax and in stripes on abdomen
- Darker-colored individuals are almost completely black with alternating light stripes of hair on abdomen
- Sometimes carrying large clump of pollen on tibia of hind leg
- Nest in large natural cavities or artificial hives



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Bumble Bees

Apidae (*Bombus* spp.)



Bumble Bees

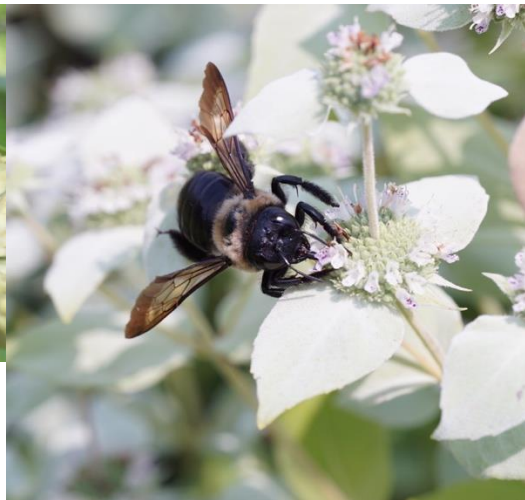
- Genus *Bombus*
- Medium (worker) to large (queen) bees
- Robust bees with dense yellow fur
- Sometimes carrying large clump of pollen on tibia of hind leg
- Amount and locations of fur is useful for identification to species
- Abdomen often with dense black and yellow hair (distinguishes them from carpenter bees)
- Nest in clumps of grass, cavities in or near the soil, and often in abandoned rodent nests



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Carpenter Bees
Apidae (Xylocopa spp.)



Carpenter Bees

- Genus *Xylocopa*
- Large bees
- Little to no hair on their abdomen (distinguishes them from bumble bees)
- Thorax has dense yellow or whitish hair
- Large heads and mandibles adapted for chewing wood
- Nest in dead wood



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