

Resin Bees

Common Name: Black Resin Bee

Size: Approximately 1 - 1.3 centimetres in length

Features: Large, strong mandibles (jaw) used to collect plant resins to build their nests.

Species in GWS: *Megachile punctata*, *Megachile aurifrons* and *Megachile deanii*.

Nesting habitat: Old borer holes (made by insects) or other cracks and crevices in trees.

Man-made nesting habitat: Resin bees will nest in drilled hardwood blocks.



Megachile punctata



Megachile aurifrons
Image from Marc Newman

Reed Bees

Common Name: Reed Bee

Size: Approximately 0.3 - 0.8 centimetres in length

Features: A shiny black head and thorax with a distinctive chestnut-coloured, wedge-shaped abdomen. Females often have a T-shaped, yellow mark on the face and a tibial scopa.

Species in GWS: *Exoneura* sp.

Nesting habitat: Stems of woody weed lantana, coral tree (*Erythrina* sp.), grass tree spikes (*Xanthorrhoea*), tree fern fronds and other hollow stemmed plants.

Man-made nesting habitat: Reed bees will nest in small holes drilled into hardwood or in dried Lantana stems.



Exoneura sp.

Masked Bees

Common Name: Masked Bee

Size: Approximately 0.4 - 1.2 centimetres in length

Features: Sparsely haired with dark heads and brightly coloured facial markings, some have brightly marked bodies.

Species in GWS: *Amphylaeus morosus* and *Hylaeus nubilosus*.

Nesting habitat: Stems of tristiana, acacia, tree fern fronds and grass tree spikes (*Xanthorrhoea*).

Man-made nesting habitat: Masked bees will nest in bamboo canes and small holes drilled in hardwood.



Hylaeus nubilosus

Leaf-cutter Bees

Common Name: Leaf-cutter Bee

Size: Approximately 1.2 centimetres in length

Features: Large, strong mandibles (jaw) used to cut discs of soft plant leaves to form a tubular nest. Half the males of the *Megachile* species have expanded forelegs which are flattened and often have long, sleek hairs used in part of the bees' mating ritual.

Nesting habitat: Nests are constructed in small cavities under bark or in rock crevices.

Man-made nesting habitat: Leaf-cutter bees will nest in large bamboo canes and drilled hardwood.



Megachile serricauda
Image from Marc Newman



Megachile maculariformis, male with modified forelegs

Blue Banded & Teddy Bear Bees

Common Name: Blue Banded Bee

Size: Approximately 1.5 centimetres in length

Features: Blue stripes on abdomen. The female has dark facial markings and tibial scopa.



Amegilla pulchra

Common Name: Teddy Bear Bee

Size: Approximately 1.5 centimetres in length

Features: Covered in orange-brown hairs. The female has dark facial markings and tibial scopa.



Amegilla bombiformis

Nesting habitat: Ground burrows.

Man-made nesting habitat: Both the Blue Banded and Teddy Bear bees (*Amegilla* sp.) can be encouraged to nest in artificial, rammed-earth nests.

Other Native & Exotic Bees

Australian Native Stingless Bees

The stingless bee (*Tetragonula carbonaria*) is the only social native bee found in the GWS region. Colonies nest in large tree cavities where they store pollen and honey. These little (4mm), black bees can be seen hovering near flowers of all types.

European Honey Bee

Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are an introduced species. They are extremely important for food production, & pollination of large scale crops. However, it is becoming more apparent that our native bees play an important part in pollinating native and exotic plant species.



Tetragonula carbonaria foraging beside European honey bees

African Carder Bee

The Carder bee (*Afranthidium repetitum*) is an introduced bee species and are well established in the GWS region. Carder bees have distinctive bright, white bands on the abdomen. These bees are somewhat territorial and can be seen chasing other bees away from the flowers they are foraging on.



Afranthidium repetitum, female