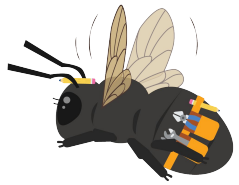
Time for Bee Bingo!



The Sonoran Desert is global hotspot of bee diversity, rivaled only by some arid regions around the Mediterranean Sea. Despite this, we know very little about bees, and they're greatly underappreciated. The Tucson Bee Collaborative was formed to address this lack of understanding. TBC is a partnership among scientists, students, teachers, artists and volunteers to better understand our regional bee diversity and to inspire wonder and appreciation of these tiny creatures. For the past six years, Desert Museum volunteers have been sampling bees from across the Tucson Basin. Because bees are difficult to identify, they are passed on to students at Pima Community College and the University of Arizona for identification through a tool called DNA barcoding.

But, you might ask, if bees are so hard to identify, how are we going to play Bee Bingo?!? The answer is that while it may be difficult to identify bees to species, it's not so difficult to recognize different types of bees — for example, a green iridescent sweat bee versus a shiny black carpenter bee. The best way to see bees is to look in flowers! When you see a bee or one of the pollinator-friendly plants on this bingo board, mark the square to keep track of your finds.

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM **in partnership with**

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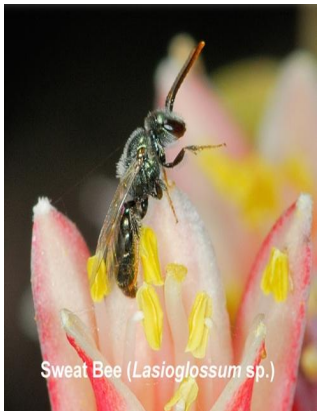
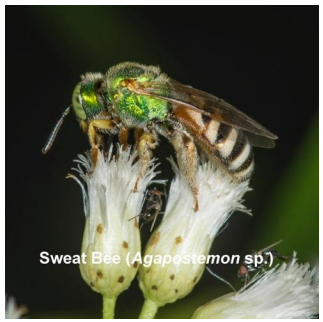
TUCSON BEE COLLABORATIVE

FW

Sweat bees

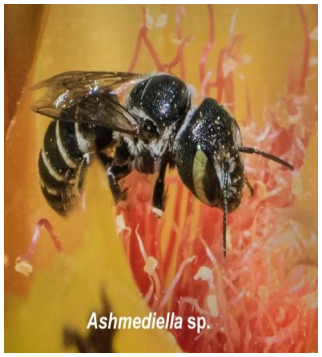
- Some are medium-sized & iridescent green
- Some are small & iridescent green
- Some are very small with a muted iridescent gray-blue color





Megachilidae

- All bees in this family are easily recognized by the fact that they carry their pollen on the underside of their abdomens, rather than their legs, like the rest of bees
- Ashmeadiella are small, burly bees, some with red abdomens.



Anthophorula spp.

- Tiny, furry bees, with very hairy back legs (for collecting pollen) such that they look like they are wearing cargo pants.

Cactus Bee (Diadasia sp.)

- Diadasia means “completely thick and hairy”
- Ground nesting in large aggregations
- Some species collect pollen only from cactus flowers

Long horn bees

- Males have long antennae that give them their common name
- Hairy, medium-sized bees often found in globe mallow flowers

Carpenter Bees (Xylocopa and Ceratina spp.)

- *Xylocopa* spp. are either entirely black or entirely yellow, and can look scary, but are actually gentle giants
- *Ceratina* spp. are very small, entirely black, but often with markings on their face

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