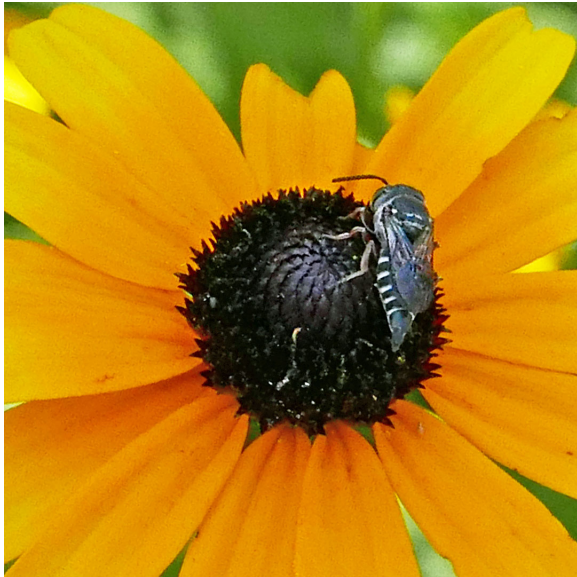


## CONGRATULATIONS!

You have chosen a female cuckoo leafcutter bee (*Coelioxys*) feeding on [Rudbeckia fulgida](#) (orange coneflower). Although she resembles other *Megachile* and visits flowers for nectar, this parasitic bee **lacks the specialized hairs (scopa) under her abdomen to collect and carry pollen**. *Coelioxys* translates to “sharp belly,” which refers to her distinctive tapered abdomen with a sharply-pointed tip. Instead of building her own nest, she uses the tip of her abdomen to pierce the brood cell walls of a host species (often other *Megachile*) and lay her eggs. When the eggs hatch, the *Coelioxys* larvae kill the host larvae and consume their pollen supply. The abdomen of male *Coelioxys* is armed with toothed spines.

Female



Male



You can see the scopae under the abdomens of the *Megachile* females on [Pycnanthemum muticum](#) (mountain mint) and [Rudbeckia fulgida](#) (pictured below left and center respectively).

The female bee (pictured below right) is a carpenter-mimic leafcutter (*Megachile xylocopoides*), also on *Pycnanthemum muticum*. She is often mistaken for southern carpenter bee (*Xylocopa micans*) because of her size and color, although her lineage becomes apparent if her abdomen is loaded with pollen. You can see the large mandibles she uses to cut leaves for her nest.

