

# The Australian bee genera

## An annotated, user-friendly key

Tobias J. Smith



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by Tobias J. Smith

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**Front cover photo** *Homalictus* females gathering pollen from *Hibbertia scandens*, K’Gari/Fraser Island – Photo by Verônica Gama, 2016

**Back cover photos** Top - *Homalictus* female gathering pollen from *Brachyscome* sp., Brisbane – Photo by Tobias Smith, 2015. Bottom - *Hylaeus (Prosopistemon) aralis* female, Palm Beach, QLD – Photo by Tobias Smith, 2018

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This annotated key is based, in part, on couplets from a number of keys written by the following authors: Charles Michener, Terry Houston, Glynn Maynard, Victor Gonzalez, Michael Engel, and Terry Griswold (publications listed on page 108). Some of the couplets from these authors appear here as they were first written, others have been modified to varying degrees.

In numerous places throughout this annotated key I support descriptions of characters with line drawings. Some of these are my own original drawings. Others are by myself, but are based on original illustrations by others, including: illustrations in Charles Michener's books *The Bees of the World* (2007) and *A Classification of the Bees of the Australian and South Pacific Regions* (1965), and illustrations by Elaine R. S. Hodges that appear in *The Bee Genera of North and Central America* (Michener, McGinley & Danforth, 1994). Likewise, a small number of other drawings within are by myself, but are based on originals by Terry Houston in his publications *A revision of the Australian Hylaeine bees (Hymenoptera: Colletidae)* (1975) and *Revision of the bee genus Ctenocolletes (Hymenoptera: Stenotritidae)* (1983).

Numerous photos presented here are sourced from the PaDIL pollinators website ([padil.gov.au/pollinators](http://padil.gov.au/pollinators)), and are identified as such throughout, along with the photographer's name for each. I also thank the following photographers for the use of their photographs: Verônica Gama, Michael Batley, Ken Walker, Steve Smith, and Samantha Gray. I thank Rowena McDonald (my mum) for the laborious task of editing this book.

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