

Using this annotated key

To identify the genus of your Australian bee specimen proceed through the following steps:

1. Determine the sex of your specimen – **Page 13**
2. For female specimens, start on **page 16** for a key to the families/subfamilies. A small number of genera will key out to completion within the families/subfamilies key. Only female specimens will key out with this key.
3. For male specimens, start on **page 27** for a key to the families/subfamilies. This key will also work for female specimens. Male bees do not collect pollen to provision offspring like most female bees, and so lack pollen-carrying structures (scopa). The females key relies on the presence/absence of scopa, and scopal characteristics in the early couplets, and therefore will not work for males.
4. Once the family or subfamily has been determined, proceed to the key to that family/subfamily further in the book to key your specimen to genus.
5. Refer to other resources or reference collections to confirm your generic determination. Some useful resources for helping with this are listed on page 108.
6. Detailed distribution maps can be found at Atlas of Living Australia (ala.org.au), by entering your genus or species. Species numbers presented within this annotated key are from the Australian Faunal Directory (biodiversity.org.au/afd/mainchecklist).
7. This key identifies specimens only to genus level. Most bee genera also have subgenera, however this level of determination is beyond the present scope of this annotated key. For subgenus and species-level identification resources, proceed to the keys listed throughout this annotated key.
8. It is strongly recommended that users of this annotated key have access to a copy of Charles Michener's 2007 *Bees of the World* (citation listed in full on page 108) for detailed explanations of technical terms, detailed information on each group, and for additional keys that may be useful to your identifications.