

leafcutter bee *Megachile latimanus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Megachilidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

This species has a stocky, black body that is covered with pale-yellow and black hairs. The pollen-collecting hairs on leafcutting bees are on the underside of the abdomen, not on the legs, as is the case in most other bees. Like all bees, they have a thick body with the division between the thorax and abdomen easily seen, four wings, hairs, stocky legs, long antennae and eyes on the side of the head.

BEHAVIORS

This species is a common bee active between April through September in dry areas of prairies, grasslands and farm fields. Leafcutter bees paper their nest with pieces of leaves. These are solitary bees with huge jaws that nest in wood or other cavities.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie

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