

A new species of *Microsphecodes* from St. Kitts (West Indies)

(Hymenoptera: Halictidae)

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Abstract: A new species of the bee genus *Microsphecodes* is described and figured from St. Kitts (St. Christopher) in the West Indies. *Microsphecodes kittensis* n. sp. is distinguished from other West Indian species of the genus, particularly *M. dominicanus* (Stage).

Keywords: Hymenoptera, Anthophila, Apoidea, Halictinae, Halictini, West Indies, St. Kitts, St. Christopher, new species, *Microsphecodes*, taxonomy

Introduction

The bee genus *Microsphecodes* is a little understood group of parasitic bees, victimizing species of *Lasioglossum* (*Dialictus*) and *Habralictus* as social parasites (EICKWORT & EICKWORT 1972; MICHENER et al., 1979). The genus is widely distributed in the neotropical region, with species recorded from as far South as southern Brazil and northerly ranging into the West Indies and Costa Rica on the mainland (Table). EICKWORT & STAGE (1972) report an undescribed species from Guatemala but give no further information on the species.

Herein I provide the description of a new species from St. Kitts (St. Christopher) in the West Indies. The new species is described herein as the most northerly record of the genus in the West Indian fauna. Morphological terminology for the description follows that of ENGEL (2001).