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New palearctic species of the bee genus *Andrena* (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Andrenidae)

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Abstract

Eight palearctic species of seven different subgenera of the bee genus *Andrena* are described as new for science: *A. (Carandrena) planti* **sp. n.** from Turkmenistan, *A. (Euandrena) yangi* **sp. n.** and *A. (Habromelissa) nantouensis* **sp. n.** from Taiwan, *A. (Larandrena) susanneae* **sp. n.** from China, *A. (Leucandrena) cheni* **sp. n.** from Taiwan, *A. (Pallandrena) christineae* **sp. n.** from Turkey and Iran, *A. (Pallandrena) scheuchli* **sp. n.** from Turkmenistan and *A. (Simandrena) heinzi* **sp. n.** from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Morphological characters of the new species are documented by SEM.

Key words: *Andrena*, new species, SEM, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Taiwan, Turkey, Turkmenistan

Introduction

Andrena species are commonly known as sand bees or solitary mining bees. *Andrena* is the largest genus of bees (cf. Michener, 2000), comprises more than 1400 valid species and about 3001 taxa including subspecies and synonyms (Gusenleitner & Schwarz, 2002; Gusenleitner et al., 2005). Considering that many species of *Andrena* have yet to be described (especially those from the dry regions of Central Asia and from Mesoamerica) and that many described subspecies, in particular those named by Warncke, may be raised to species rank, the real number of species of *Andrena* might approach 2000.

The genus *Andrena* exhibits a widespread holarctic distribution ranging from Alaska south to Panama, and from western Europe including northern Africa via Asia Minor, Central Asia eastward to Korea, Japan, and northeastern Russia (Kamchatka). Except for one species which is found in the tropical lowlands of Panama, the occurrence of *Andrena* in tropical regions such as the East African highlands, the southern parts of India, China and Japan as well as Taiwan and Malaysia (Baker, 1995), is clearly restricted to the

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