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Revision of the rare Mesoamerican bee genus *Mexalictus* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) with the description of 21 new species

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Abstract

The Mesoamerican bee genus *Mexalictus* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae: Halictinae) is a group of rare bees which are found at high elevations from southern Arizona (USA) to Panama. The genus is revised using traditional taxonomic approaches. The following twenty one new species are described: *M. albofasciatus* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. anatolii* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. astriatus* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. ayalai* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. benyamini* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. diversus* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. jovelus* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. genalis* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. gibbsi* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. guatemalensis* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. hansonii* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. hondurensis* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. laurencei* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. mandibularis* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. nicaraguensis* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. punctatus* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. raavo* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. sheffieldi* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. veracruzense* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. verdazulus* Dumesh, n. sp., *M. vitriolus* Dumesh, n. sp. These and five previously known species are diagnosed, described, illustrated, and keyed. Phylogenetic analysis, based on 43 unordered morphological characters, resulted in 4 equally most parsimonious trees (L=176; Ci=36.4; Ri=56.6). Based upon these results, the subgeneric classification of *Mexalictus* into *Georgealictus* and *Mexalictus s.str.*, is resurrected.

Key words: Halictini, phylogeny, high elevation, mountain, cloud forest, Mexico, Central America