

## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

***Pithitis smaragdula* (Fabricius), an Asiatic Bee  
(Hymenoptera: Apidae)  
Now Apparently Established on Oahu**

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In December 1984, one of us (JWB) found, in a collection made by an entomology student at the University of Hawaii, a single male specimen of a metallic green bee that he recognized as something previously unknown in the Hawaiian fauna. The specimen (cited below) was not reported at the time because of lack of confidence about the collection data. A second male specimen, also from an entomology student collection, was found in 1987 and was not reported for the same reason. However, a third male of this bee was collected in general sweeping of introduced vegetation at Barber's Pt., Oahu, in November 1996 by JWB and WDP, and a fourth male was taken by DJP at Pearl Harbor in December 1997. The species was determined by KTA as *Pithitis smaragdula* (Fabricius) in March 1998. Although it has been rarely collected, it appears likely that this bee is now established on Oahu.

*Pithitis smaragdula* was described by Fabricius (1787) in the genus *Apis*. The genus *Pithitis* was erected by Klug (1807) with *A. smaragdula* Fabricius as the type species. *Pithitis* was treated as a subgenus of *Ceratina* Latreille by van der Vecht (1952), but Hirashima (1966) gave it full generic status.

According to Hirashima (1969), *P. smaragdula* is widely distributed throughout south Asia, including Taiwan, Ryukyu Is., Philippines, Indonesia, south China, and west to India and Pakistan. Hirashima (1969) stated that this bee, incorrectly identified as *Ceratina binghami* Cockerell, has been utilized for pollination of alfalfa in India, and was purposely introduced into the USA (Utah) and Japan for experimental pollination studies. It is of interest that all four of the known Hawaiian specimens are males.

*Specimens Examined*: OAHU I.: Waimanalo, 27.X.1984, B. Brunson (1 ♂); Waimanalo, 4.III.1987, L. Ruchi (1 ♂); Barber's Pt., el. 3–10 ft, 14.XI.1996, J.W. Beardsley and W.D. Perreira, general sweeping (1 ♂); Pearl Harbor, Kalauao Springs nr. bike path, 12.I.1998, D.J. Preston, sweep net (1 ♂).

## Literature Cited

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