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## *Triepeolus Mesillae* (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) in Illinois: A Cleptoparasitic Bee New to the Eastern United States

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**TRIEPEOLUS MESILLAE (HYMENOPTERA: APOIDEA) IN ILLINOIS: A  
CLEPTOPARASITIC BEE NEW TO THE EASTERN UNITED STATES**

Cockerell (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., Ser. 7, 13:33-42, 1904) named *Triepeolus mesillae* on the basis of a series of specimens which he collected at Mesilla, New Mexico. A second locality for the species was added by Rozen (Amer. Mus. Novitates 2244, 1966) when he described the larva of *T. mesillae* from cells of *Nomia (Epinomia) triangulifera* Vachal excavated by E. A. Cross at Lakeview, Douglas County, Kansas, in 1955. Aside from Cockerell's inclusion of *T. mesillae* in his key to the *Triepeolus* of Colorado (Cockerell, Univ. Colorado Stud. 16:99-126, 1928), no other information concerning the species has been published. The purpose of this paper is to record *T. mesillae* from Illinois and thus to provide a third locality for the species and the first from east of the Mississippi River.

On 29 August 1981, an associate of the author, Tamara F. Bouseman, took a male and a female of *Triepeolus mesillae* from flowers of *Helianthus occidentalis* Riddell in Henderson County, Illinois. The bees were collected between 1300 and 1400 CDST from a population of *H. occidentalis* growing in a sand prairie about 3.5 miles N of Oquawka. During the time of the collection of the two specimens of *T. mesillae*, the author collected a pollen-laden female of the recorded host, *Nomia triangulifera*, from nearby flowers of *Helianthus rigidus* (Cass.) Desf., and other specimens of *N. triangulifera* were taken from sunflowers later on that day (Bouseman, J. Kansas Entomol. Soc., 55:95-96, 1982).

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