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A Peculiar New Type of Halictine Bees

T. D. A. Cockerell

New Mexico Agricultural College

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A Peculiar New Type of Halictine Bees.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Halictus conanathi, sp. n.—♀. Length about 4 mm.; black, with a decided green lustre on head, thorax and abdomen, or it might better be described as very dark green, the surface throughout having a sort of satiny sheen; head elongate-oval, shaped much as in the *Proctotrypia* genus *Dissomphalus* (♀), with the short antennæ placed very low down, at least twice as far from the ocelli as from the mouth; clypeus prominent, piceous, shining; a fringe of shining, yellowish hairs beneath its margin; mandibles whitish, with ferruginous ends; maxillary palpi long and slender; flagellum pale ferruginous beneath, somewhat darker above; tegulæ hyaline, not punctured; wings very short, clear, beautifully iridescent, nervures and stigma sepia-brown; first recurrent nervure received by second submarginal cell not much beyond its middle; femora black, knees tibia and tarsi light ferruginous; abdomen long and narrow, but flattened, with a conspicuous apical bunch of fuscous hairs. With a compound microscope, the abdomen is seen to be minutely transversely striate; the head and thorax are tessellate; the front is distinctly, but very sparsely punctured; the cheeks, legs, etc., are covered with plumose white hairs.

Hab.—Mesilla, New Mexico, July 17 (*Ckll.*) One at flowers of *Conanthus hispidus*; it may be that the narrow head serves to facilitate the getting of nectar from the flower, but it is extremely peculiar. The insect may be referred to a new subgenus *Conanthalictus*, characterized by the peculiarities italicised in the above description, and also by the large semilunar enclosure of the metathorax, coarsely granular and dull, with a distinct rim.