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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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