Halictus of the tallgrass prairie region and eastern North America

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Males
1. Thorax dull metallic green, blueish-green to blackish-green…………………2
   Thorax blackish, non-metallic……………………………………………………3

2. Face short, i.e., about half of the clypeus extends below the suborbital line; propodeum with dorsal surface finely striate with a smooth, shiny posterior margin; gonocoxite laterally with a very narrow vertical projection which is separate from the gonostylus……………………………………………………………………………...tripartitus
   Face longer, nearly all of the clypeus extending below the suborbital line; propodeum dorsally finely rugose or finely reticulate-striate in its entirety, without a smooth, shiny posterior margin; gonocoxite laterally simple, lacking any projection; throughout ENA………………………………………………………...confusus
   Note: H. (S.) tectus Radosz. has been introduced on the east coast recently; it is similar to H. (S.) confusus, but with conspicuous white or yellowish appressed hairs all over the body, esp. on the anterior face of T1 where they mostly conceal the integument; in confusus males, the hairs on the anterior face of T1 are erect, not appressed, and the integument is clearly visible there.

3. ST4 with apical margin weakly concave and bordered with a narrow, dense, pubescent fringe; propodeal triangle dorsally rugose-reticulate…………rubicundus
   ST4 margin straight, to very weakly concave, its margin without a fringe of dense hairs, pubescence short and uniform throughout……………………………………4

4. Propodeal triangle dorsally extremely finely and densely rugoso-punctate; ST2-ST4 with very fine, short, appressed pubescence, lacking any long, suberect hairs even laterally; inner margin of gonostylus with a comb of 6 or so distinct setae; usually 12mm or longer in length, wings typically brownish……………………………parallelus
   Note: H. rubicundus is similar but ST4 is modified in that species, see above; the western farinosus, which barely makes it onto the Great Plains, is also similar but has lighter wings and a shorter vertex than parallelus. In addition, the tergal punctures are very fine and close in farinosus, much more so than those on the scutum; in parallelus the tergal punctures are much like those of the scutum in size and density. Propodeal triangle dorsally finely rugose to rugoso- striate, lacking any punctures; ST2-ST4 with longer, suberect hairs more-or-less throughout; inner margin of gonostylus without anything resembling a comb; usually smaller, 10 mm or less in length, wings not so darkened, lighter in color……………………………………………………ligatus
   Note: the recently-recognized H. poeyi Lepel. is genetically distinct from H. ligatus, but morphologically similar. Thus far known from Tennessee, Mississippi, south Texas; acc. to Sam it may be a sand obligate (true ligatus is not a sand obligate).

Halictus of the tallgrass prairie region and eastern North America
Females

1. Thorax dull metallic green or blueish (subgenus *Seladonia*)…………………2

Note: *H. (S.) tectus* Radosz. has been introduced on the east coast recently; it is similar to the native *Seladonia* spp. but with conspicuous white or yellowish appressed hairs on the posterior face of the propodeum and elsewhere on the body; our native *Seladonia* species lack this appressed pubescence. Thorax blackish, non-metallic………………………………………..3

2. Propodeum with posterior margin usually evenly crescentic in outline; overall punctation of the bee exceptionally fine and close, this especially notable on the frons; eyes parallel, face not narrowed below; pronotum with dorso-ventral ridge sharp-edged, not obtuse; propodeal triangle dorsally usually with weak, largely linear macrosculpture stretching from base to approximate posterior margin of propodeum; TGP region but not known east of the Mississippi River...................................................tripartitus

Propodeum usually with posterior margin truncate medially, not evenly crescentic; overall punctation of the bee coarser, especially notable on frons; eyes weakly converging below, thus face narrowed below; pronotum with dorso-ventral ridge obtuse, not angulate; propodeal triangle dorsally usually with weakly reticulate (not linear) macrosculpture, and weak, narrow transverse ridges adjacent to the medial portion of the posterior margin of the propodeum; widespread in TGP……………...confusus

3. Gena with a distinct toothlike or angulate process along ventral-posterior margin; hind tibial spur with one large basal tooth, serrated beyond this tooth……..ligatus

Note: the recently-recognized *H. poeyi* Lepel. (not recorded from TGP at present) is genetically distinct from *H. ligatus*, but morphologically similar; “female *poeyi* have the ocelli set back quite a distance from the vertex (greater than the distance between the outside edges of the lateral ocelli), and have a much wider and narrower clypeus (Droege)”. Thus far known from Tennessee, Mississippi, south Texas, possibly a sand obligate (Droege), true *ligatus* is not.

Gena simple, rounded, not angulate; hind tibial spurs otherwise ……………....4

4. Vertex short (distance from midocellus to interantennal line nearly twice the distance from midocellus to crest of vertex); hind tibial spur with 4-6 widely-spaced, separate teeth; wings light in color, pale brown at most…………….rubicundus

Vertex taller (distance from midocellus to interantennal line about equal to distance from midocellus to crest of vertex); hind tibial spur serrate, without distinctly separate teeth; wings darker (brownish)……………………………………...parallelus

Note: the western *H. farinosus* is similar to *parallelus* but barely enters the western Great Plains. *H. farinosus* females have the hind tibial spur similar to that of *parallelus*, but a shorter vertex, more like that of *rubicundus*, and *farinosus* has longer, erect hairs on the pronotal collar, *parallelus* has short, dense, suberect hairs on the pronotal collar.