

It appears to be most closely related to *Pogonomyrmex apache* Wheeler from which it differs most obviously in its greater size and lighter coloration. In addition, the clypeus of *P. texanus* is less deeply excised, the mesoscutal rugosity is variable, but usually less extensive than that of *P. apache*, and the declivious face of the propodeum is smooth and shining. A minor point of confusion arises in the above mentioned key (p. 44), where it specifies for *P. apache* "scutellum with prominent longitudinal striae." The subsequent *general discussion* (p. 52), indicates "nearly smooth and shining scutellum" with "sparse, faint, uneven, broken striae." I have specimens that fit both descriptions and hence the key should be modified to indicate this variability.

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## The Drone and Species Status of the Himalayan Honey Bee, *Apis laboriosa* (Hymenoptera: Apidae)

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ABSTRACT: The taxonomic history of the Himalayan honey bee, *Apis laboriosa*, is summarized, and the morphological and biological characters that distinguish it from *A. dorsata* are reviewed. The male genitalia of *A. laboriosa* are described and figured. The genitalia of *A. laboriosa* and *A. dorsata* appear identical, although the two taxa are considered to be distinct species on the basis of other traits.

The taxonomic status of the Himalayan honey bee or cliff bee has been a subject of controversy for many years. It was first described by F. Smith (1871) as *Apis laboriosa*. He examined worker bees from Yunnan, China and differentiated *A. laboriosa* from the giant honey bee, *A. dorsata*, on the basis of ocellar and pilosity characters. Ashmead (1904) erected the genus *Megapis* for *A. dorsata* but made no mention of *A. laboriosa*. Maa (1953) recognized 24 species of honey bees in three genera and included four species in the genus *Megapis*: *binghami*, *breviligula*, *dorsata*, and *laboriosa*. Goetze (1964), Ruttner (1968), and Koeniger (1976) claimed that the morphological characters used by Maa to distinguish species were intraspecific in nature. Many honey bee specialists recognize only four species of honey bees in the single genus *Apis*: *cerana*, *dorsata*, *florea*, and *mellifera* (Goetze, 1964; Koeniger, 1976; Michener, 1974; Ruttner, 1968). However, Sakagami et al. (1980) compared over 100 characters in 194 workers of *A. laboriosa* and *A. dorsata* and concluded that *A. laboriosa* is a distinct species.

One of the autapomorphies of the genus *Apis* is the reduced external male genitalia and the greatly enlarged and membranous endophallus. The endophallus is a reliable character for separating the four commonly recognized *Apis* species. Demonstration of significant differences between the genitalia of