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Bee Colorful!



Learn more about this bee
on the next page!

California Cuckoo Bee
Xeromelecta californica



© Nina Sokolov



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California cuckoo bee

The bee species

Californian digger-cuckoo bee
(*Xeromelecta californica*)

Where they live

Central & North America

Where they make their nests

They don't make their own nest, instead they use the hard work of another bee (*Athopha urbana*) and lay their eggs in their underground nests. Then the other species of bee has to take care of the new arrivals.

Favorite flowers

Unknown, but they do like asters.

Fun fact!

Very little is known about this bee!
But it is a parasite of other bees.
It does not raise its own young.
Therefore, it is one of the rare bees
that does not collect pollen and
nectar for its babies, only for itself.



Got questions
about bees?
Ask us!

About the artist



I am Nina Sokolov, a PhD student in the Integrative Biology Department at UC Berkeley. I study diseases in both honey and native bees in California. I want to understand how diseases, like viruses, are impacting bee populations to help conserve them into the future – because they really are important!
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