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Colletes rozeni sp. n., a new bee species from Israel (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Colletidae)

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A b s t r a c t : A new bee species from Israel, *Colletes rozeni* sp.n., is described and compared with its nearest relative, *C. formosus* PÉREZ 1895.

K e y w o r d s : *Colletes*, bee, Israel, new species.

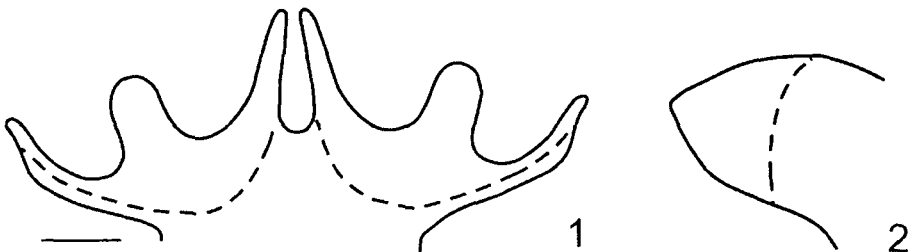
Introduction

Some time ago Dr Jerry ROZEN of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York, inquired if I might be able to identify a number of *Colletes* species, most of them collected in Israel. Among the material were two males of a new early spring bee that is described below.

Colletes rozeni sp. n.

Holotype ♂: Israel: N. Negev, 18 km WSW Telalim, III-10-97, J.G. Rozen, M.S. Engel (Tel Aviv University). Paratype 1 ♂: Israel: N. Negev, 18 km WSW Telalim, III-9-97, J.G. Rozen, M.S. Engel (American Museum of Natural History, New York).

Diagnosis: The very characteristic new species belongs to the *formosus* group (sensu NOSKIEWICZ 1936) and closely resembles *C. formosus* PÉREZ, 1895 in the elongate malar area and the conspicuous dense tuft of erect hairs on the middle of sternum 6, but can be easily recognized by the unique shape of sternum 7 (fig. 1). In NOSKIEWICZ's 1936 key



Figs 1-2: *Colletes rozeni* sp. n.. Shape of male 7th sternite in dorsal view (1). Shape of male gonostylus (2). Scale bar = 0,2 mm.

C. rozeni runs to *C. formosus*. Because of the close resemblance of the two species and the detailed description NOSKIEWICZ (1936) gave for *C. formosus* I restrict the description of the new species to their morphological differences.

Description of male: length 12 mm. *Colletes rozeni* differs from *C. formosus* in the following characters: malar area longer, about 2.5 times longer than width of base of mandible (*C. formosus*: about 2.0 times longer than width of mandible base); disc of mesonotum shagreened and \pm dull between punctuation (*C. formosus*: smooth and shining); tergal bands 0.5 times broader than in *C. formosus* and consisting of longer hairs; tergal band in the middle of tergite 1 only slightly narrower than at the sides (*C. formosus*: in the middle only half the width of the lateral hair bands); like tergal bands the sternal hair bands 0.5 times broader than in *C. formosus*; central lobe of sternite 7 (fig. 1) long and narrow (same size as the lateral lobes) while in *C. formosus* it is more than three times broader but much shorter than lateral lobes; shape of gonostylus see fig. 2.

Female unknown.

Derivatio nominis: This species is dedicated to Dr. Jerome G. Rozen, Jr.

Interestingly, in Israel the close relatives *C. rozeni* and *C. formosus* both occur as early active spring bees in the same desert habitats.

Acknowledgements

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References

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