

Ngaro huruhuru o Aotearoa

Native bees of New Zealand

Masked bees



Hylaeus agilis (female)



H. capitosus (female)



H. kermadecensis (female)



H. matamoko (female)



H. relegatus (female)



Hylaeus agilis (male)



H. capitosus (male)



H. kermadecensis (male)



H. matamoko (male)



H. relegatus (male)

Scale



5 mm

MASKED BEE

Hylaeus Murihiku - male



5 mm

HONEY BEE

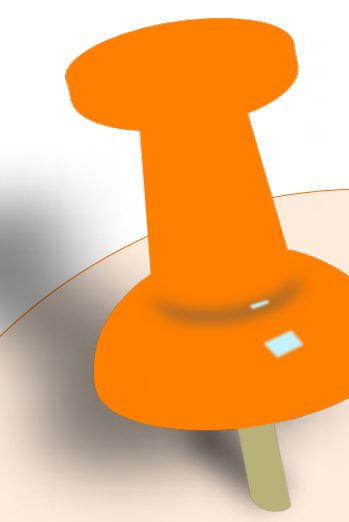
Apis mellifera - worker



5 mm

BUMBLE BEE

Bombus ruderatus - worker



Quick facts

- NZ has around 6 species of native bees from the genus *Hylaeus*.
- Each type has their own *unique* facial markings or moko, and so they are commonly called masked bees.
- Mother bees make their nests inside old wooden logs or in old flax flower stems.
- During the winter months masked bees they live as baby *bee-grubs* inside their nests and they emerge as fully grown adults in the summer.
- Masked bees are not fluffy - they carry pollen in their crop.
- They really love sun-bathing and blowing nectar bubbles on hot summer days.
- They also love native flowers, especially harakeke and will stay on a single flower for a very long time.
- Keep your eye out for them this summer...they are beautiful gentle bees, and fun to watch.