

Aculeata of Norway. 4. Two species of bees new to Norway (Hymenoptera, Apoidea)

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Two species of bees (Apoidea) are published from Norway for the first time: *Andrena argentata* Smith, 1844 (Andrenidae) and *Melitta leporina* (Panzer, 1799) (Melittidae). A total of 186 bee species are now recorded from Norway.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Apoidea, solitary bees, Norway.

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INTRODUCTION

Berg (2000) presented an overview of literature on Norwegian wild bees and concluded that some 184 species seem to have been published from Norway. Revision of museum material is necessary to establish an exact number; such work has not yet been carried out. Extensive bee collecting during the last years has resulted in three species not previously published from Norway.

THE SPECIES

Nomenclature follows Schwarz et al. (1996). Biogeographic regions are given according to Økland (1976) and EIS-squares according to Økland (1981) modified by Endrestøl (2005). The author has identified the specimens. The material is deposited in the author's collection.

***Andrena argentata* Smith, 1844**

AAI, Åmli: Kaunberget, UTM WGS84 32 V 0473592 6509833 (EIS 10), 2♂♂, 18 July 2005 leg. Ø. Berg on *Calluna vulgaris*. The specimens were collected at the edge of a sand pit; the species is known to nest in sand (Westrich 1990). The species is bivoltine; the two males collected obviously belong to the second generation.

A. argentata is known from temperate Europe to Western Kazakhstan (Dylewska 1987, Schmid-Egger & Scheuchl 1997). In Sweden it is found north to Dalarna (Cederberg 2008, unpublished). In Sweden the species is considered vulnerable (Gårdenfors 2005) due to loss of its sandy habitats.

A. argentata can be separated from its relative *A. barbilabris* (Kirby, 1802) by slightly denser punctuation on tergites 2–3, fresh specimens have rather broad tergal bands (Schmid-Egger & Scheuchl 1997). There is also a difference in the male genitalia. The penis valve is broad basally and very narrow apically in *A. barbilabris*, in *A. argentata* it is less broad basally and not that narrow apically. The two specimens have been compared with a male *A. argentata* from Denmark (det. H.B. Madsen), and 6 males of *A. barbilabris* from Norway (det F. Burger).

According to Nilsson (2003) C.G. Thomson used “*Andrena proxima* Kirby” for the taxon currently known as *A. argentata*. Thus it was deemed necessary to investigate any old records of *A. proxima* from Norway.