



Scissor Head



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Solitary Bees

Leafcutter Bees

Genus: *Megachile*

(pronounced me-ga-KY-lee)



Leafcutter Bee
6 to 22 mm in length



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Milk



Scissors



Hamburger

Only female bees collect pollen. Male bees of all species lack structures to carry pollen: corbicula and **scopa** (hair) on legs and abdomen.

Leafcutter bees and mason bees belong to a family of bees called Megachilidae (meg-a-KILL-ih-dee), meaning "large jaw," referring to their large **mandibles** that act like teeth.

A leafcutter bee cutting leaves for a nest

Photo by Aiden Hersh

Field Notes:

Leafcutter bees are pollinators of alfalfa and many wild plants. They are called leafcutter bees because they cut out small pieces of leaves to use to build their nests. Leafcutter bees are darkly colored, small to medium-sized bees.

In Oregon, they are important pollinators of alfalfa grown for seed. Farmers buy the seed to grow alfalfa plants, which are fed to cows, chickens, sheep and other **livestock** (animals raised on a farm) that give us milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, meat and more.

 **Name at least one trait of the leafcutter bee that differs from a trait of a bee on another page. Name at least one trait that is the same.**



A trait of this bee is that it can cut leaves for its nest.

Name a synonym and antonym for cut: