

# AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL CONCERNED ABOUT OUR DISAPPEARING HONEY BEES I KNOW WHAT IS KILLING HONEY BEES ... BUTCHER BEES

My name is Terrance M. Allen. I am a retired Entomologist, Arachnologist, and Practicing Paleontologist. I have been an Entomologist for 50 years. In 1981, *TIME Magazine* quoted my realistic and honest but dismal claim that the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) could not be eradicated from California (see "Trying to Thwart the Fruit Fly," *TIME Magazine*, July 27, 1981) I was correct in my assessment of the Medfly infestation (See "Medfly Entrenched in California, study finds." *Appeal-Democrat Newspaper*, August 11, 2013, page C3).



European Honey Bee

Here in California, I have discovered, captured, and identified a new species of leafcutting bee which appears to be a very important factor contributing to the disappearance of our European Honey Bees. Any person interested in commercial apiculture, from beekeeping as a business or hobby to the backyard gardener, should be made aware of this new invasive species and its impact on honey bee populations.

I have been focusing a great deal of my attention on the deaths and disappearance of honey bees for 10 years. In May 2009, after finding so many dead honey bees on my property and in and around my neighborhood, I captured a new species of bee I was not familiar with at my front yard flower bed. At first, I was elated to see another species of bee visiting and pollinating the flowers in my vegetable and flower gardens, as it was known by now that our imported European Honey Bees were disappearing for no apparent reason(s).

On September 2, 2010, after capturing a male specimen of the new bee, I was able to make a positive identification of the species—it was a **European Wool Carder Bee** (EWC Bee), *Anthidium Manicatum* L. of the family: Megachilidae (leafcutting bees), a species that had not been reported in California. Sexual dimorphism between the male and female bees led me to believe I captured two different species of bees between 2009 and 2010. Upon further investigation, I observed this new bee attack and dismember honey bees. I wrote and distributed a report with my find-



Male European Wool Carder Bee

ings September 20, 2010 entitled "The European Wool Carder Bee" (revision 10/19/2010).

I contacted the appropriate people and agencies, including the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture, the California State Beekeepers Association, and the California Farm Bureau Federation, along with other entomologists, biologists and a couple of beekeepers. I tried, with no success, to contact honey bee researchers at our local University of California at Davis (UCD). Others, now aware of my findings, contacted more individuals including entomologists at the California State Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and UCD.

Dr. Eric Mussen, lead honey bee researcher at UCD, immediately contacted me (September 28, 2010) and queried me about the new bee, including how to spell its scientific name, where and how I discovered it, what my assessment of it was, and what I recommended might be done and/or how to control it. I agreeably answered all of his questions. Dr. Mussen told me that the European Wool Carder Bee had never been reported in California, and he could not find any information on it during his computer search. I received similar answers from my contacts at the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture, along with a reply from the State Department of Food and Agriculture, through the County, that the entomologists there (at CDFA) could not identify the species of bee (the EWC Bee, both male and females specimens) I had submitted for confirmation of identification; they could only identify the bee to the genus as *Anthidium*.

Two months later, on November 29, 2010, I received a notice from our local electric/utility company, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), to DESTROY the flower bed where I found the European Wool Carder Bee. (Google "Terry Allen Honey Bee" on the internet and Play the first story "Man Tussles With SMUD," by CBS Television Reporter, Maria Medina.)

I also received two anonymous telephone calls warning me to "back off" from my research. Someone wanted my investigation of the European Wool Carder Bee and European Honey Bee to be suspended—just as on the Medfly Eradication Project in 1980-81 when my research and Medfly Find Reports and Infestation Assessments were destroyed—and I was terminated as a California State Entomologist and Pest Management Specialist III for doing my job I was sworn, under oath, to do in 1974.

**Entomologically yours,**  
**Terrance M. Allen, S.C.E.**

**Editors Note:** Readers who are interested in seeing Mr. Allen's full report on the role of the European Wool Carder Bee in the disappearance of honey bees in the USA and other countries can find the report and supporting documents at:

[www.MetaGuides.net/Articles.html](http://www.MetaGuides.net/Articles.html).



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## History Summary for Terrance M. Allen includes:

**Northwestern School of Taxidermy:** Certificate & Diploma in completion of the Study of Taxidermy.

**Long Beach City College and California State University:** Associates in Science and Bachelor of Arts Degrees with a Major in Entomology.

**State of California Dept. of Health:** Certified Technician in Mosquito Control.

**California State Dept. of Food and Agriculture:** Certified as Economic Entomologist and Pest Management Specialist.

**Inventor:** Insect Collecting Allen Aspirator, Fruit Fly (Medfly) Fruit Collection/Detection Stacking Bucket, Intense-Biased-Survey Medfly Detection Program.