

Plebeia

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Plebeia is a small genus of stingless bees, formerly including in the genus *Trigona*. Most of the 35 species are placed in the subgenus (*Plebeia*) (*s.s.*), but there are four species in the subgenus (*Scaura*) and a single species, *Plebeia quadripunctata*, in the subgenus (*Schwarziana*). They differ in only minor structural details, primarily of the hind leg, from other genera that were formerly treated as constituents of *Trigona*.

Range

Plebeia species occur from Mexico southward through Argentina.

Behavior

One species in this genus has been studied in some detail regarding its caste determination system. In *Plebeia quadripunctata*, although less than 1% of female worker cells produce dwarf queens, they comprise six out of seven queen bees, and one out of five proceed to head colonies of their own. They are reproductively active but less fecund than large queens^[1].

References

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Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Hymenoptera
Superfamily:	Apoidea
Family:	Apidae
Subfamily:	Apinae
Tribe:	Meliponini
Genus:	<i>Plebeia</i> Schwarz, 1938

Species

~35 species; see text