

"Native Bees that Pollinate Prickly Pears and Chollas"
by Penny Hoe

I enjoy observing the bees that visit and pollinate the cacti in our front yard xeriscape. These bees pollinate cacti seldom if ever visited by honey bees. They are native bees with special adaptations that allow them to live in partnership with opuntoid cacti. We will start with the Diadasia bees and then look at Leaf-Cutter bees. If time allows I will show you the giant Xylocopa Carpenter bees.

Cactus bees in fruits of *Cylindropuntia spinosior*



Leafcutter bee with long tongue in *Cylindropuntia imbricata* blossom



Carpenter bee atop *Cylindropuntia kleiniae* blossom

