Ngaro huruhuru o Aotearoa
Native bees of New Zealand

Masked bees



Hylaeus agilis (female) | *H. capitosus (female)* | *H. kermadecensis (female)* | *H. matamoko (female)* | *H. relegatus (female)*

Hylaeus agilis (male) | *H. capitosus (male)* | *H. kermadecensis (male)* | *H. matamoko (male)* | *H. relegatus (male)*

Scale



MASKED BEE
Hylaeus Murihiku – male

HONEY BEE
Apis mellifera – worker

BUMBLE BEE
Bombus ruderatus - worker

Quick facts

- NZ has around 6 species of native bees from the genus *Hylaeus.*
- Each type has their own *unique* facial markings or moko, and so they are commonly called masked bees.
- Mother bees make their nests inside old wooden logs or in old flax flower stems.
- During the winter months masked bees they live as baby *bee-grubs* inside their nests and they emerge as fully grown adults in the summer.
- Masked bees are not fluffy – they carry pollen in their crop.
- They really love sun-bathing and blowing nectar bubbles on hot summer days.
- They also love native flowers, especially harakeke and will stay on a single flower for a very long time.
- Keep your eye out for them this summer...they are beautiful gentle bees, and fun to watch.

This poster was made possible by a collaboration with photographer Birgit Rhode on behalf of © Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research,
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