

Project Update: April 2016

We began sampling bees at the end of January 2016. To date, we have collected over 300 bee specimens, sorted to a minimum of 40 species and morpho-species.

A couple of plant species have been focal points in our collection efforts: the buzz-pollinated shrub *Senna pallida* and morning glory (*Ipomoea trifida*). Some of the genera and species of bees represented in our collections include *Eulaema meriana*, *Eulaema polychroma*, *Euglossa* spp., *Exaerete smaragdina*, *Bombus mexicanus*, *Ceratina*, *Xylocopa*, *Gaesischia exul*, *Megachile*, *Melissodes*, *Melipona beecheii*, *Scaptotrigona pectoralis*, *Tetragonisca angustula*, *Trigona fulviventris*, and *Agapostemon nasutus*.

The online group Abejas de Mexico has proven helpful in attaining preliminary identifications of specimens, while the Missouri Botanical Garden's online Flora of Nicaragua has been indispensable for plant identifications. Marcos Calero, the project's field technician, continues to receive ongoing training in plant identification and bee taxonomy.

