

## Taxonomic Position of *Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) algirum pseudannulipes* (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Halictidae)

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The halictid bee *Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) pseudannulipes* (Blüthgen, 1925) is here recognized as a full species, although the taxon has been often ranked as a subspecies of *L. (E.) algirum* (Blüthgen, 1925). We present a redescription of the species, supplemented by drawings and photographs of diagnostically important characters, including those described for the first time.

**Key Words:** Insecta, Hymenoptera, Halictidae, *Lasioglossum*, *Evylaeus*, taxonomy, redescription.

### Introduction

In the current classification, the halictid bee taxon *Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) algirum* (Blüthgen, 1925) is divided into two subspecies, the nominotypical subspecies ranging from Morocco to Nepal, and *L. (E.) algirum pseudannulipes* (Blüthgen, 1925) from China and Japan. Blüthgen (1925) originally described the latter taxon as *Halictus pseudannulipes* based on a female specimen collected in China. Ebmer (1978) then relegated *H. pseudannulipes* to a subspecies of *L. (E.) algirum* based on their close mutual morphological similarity and apparently parapatric distribution. Males were recorded from Kyushu, Japan, for the first time by Goubara *et al.* (2004), who commented that it might be proper to treat the taxon as a full species, judging from the characteristics of the male. In the course of a collaborative study of Palaearctic species of the subgenus *Evylaeus*, we have had an opportunity to examine specimens of both taxa, including males. As a result, we conclude that these two taxa are specifically distinct because of differences in several morphological characters. In this paper, we redescribe *L. (E.) pseudannulipes* on the basis of Japanese specimens, including the first description of males.

### Materials and Methods

This study is based on specimens deposited in the Entomological Laboratory, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan (ELKU); the late Dr Shôichi F. Sakagami's collection, now deposited in the Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo, Sanda, Japan (SCMH); and the first author's private col-