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# Invertebrate of the Month

## July 2007



### Native Anthophorid Bees

Australian native bees in the family Anthophoridae are important pollinators. *Amegilla* sp (13 mm) pictured above is commonly known as the “blue banded bee”. This bee is one of our few native buzz pollinators whose long tongue can reach deep into tubular flowers. They build solitary nests, but are often found nesting close to one another in soil or soft rocks such as sandstone. The females have a sting but they are not aggressive and will not attack unless disturbed. Species within the genus *Amegilla* have been recorded throughout Australia, but *A. dawsoni* is currently recognised as exclusive to Western Australia.