

New 'Lucifer' bee with devil-like horns found

13th November 2025



A scientist has discovered a new species of bee in Australia. The bee has tiny horns on its head. The scientist is bee ecologist Dr Kit Prendergast. She gave the bee the Latin name *Megachile lucifer*. "Lucifer" is another name for the Devil. Dr

Prendergast found the bee while she was doing a survey of an endangered wildflower in the city of Perth, Western Australia. She told the "Perth Now" news agency that she gave the bee its name because of its horns. She said: "These horns are very distinct and devilish. I wanted to call it a devil-like name and so I decided on Lucifer." She added: "Lucifer means 'light bringer' in Latin. I want to bring light to issues around the lack of conservation of native bees."

Australia is home to more than 2,000 species of native bees. The new Lucifer bee is one of hundreds in the country that have not been named. Dr Prendergast said: "[There are] many native bees that have evolved in Australia. We don't even know the names of them. They haven't been described. We don't know their distribution or where they nest." The Lucifer bee is "the first new member of this bee group to be described in more than 20 years". She added that there is a lot of "life we still have to discover". Prendergast is worried that the endangered wildflower and the new bee "could be at risk from habitat disturbance and other threatening processes like climate change".

Sources: perthnow.com / yahoo.com / phys.org

Writing

Bees are the most important insect. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientist / species / bees / horns / ecologist / endangered / wildflower / conservation / Australia / home / distribution / life / at risk / habitat / threatening / climate change

True / False

- 1) A new bee species has been found in Austria. T / F
- 2) The article says 'Lucifer' is another name for a ghost. T / F
- 3) A scientist discovered the bee when she was studying endangered frogs. T / F
- 4) The scientist said there is a lack of conservation efforts with native bees. T / F
- 5) There are more than 2,000 bee species in Australia. T / F
- 6) The scientist said there are about a dozen more bee species to find. T / F
- 7) A bee like Lucifer hadn't been found in the past 20 years. T / F
- 8) The scientist is worried about the future of a wildflower. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. discovered | a. types |
| 2. tiny | b. at risk |
| 3. endangered | c. preservation |
| 4. distinct | d. scary |
| 5. conservation | e. found |
| 6. species | f. developed |
| 7. evolved | g. concerned |
| 8. worried | h. natural environment |
| 9. habitat | i. very small |
| 10. threatening | j. recognizable |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of news bee species being discovered?
- b) Why are there still many species that have not been discovered?
- c) What do you think of the bee's name?
- d) What do you think the job of a bee ecologist is like?
- e) How important are bees?
- f) What insects are more important than bees?
- g) What can we do to help bees?
- h) What advice do you have for Dr Prendergast?

Phrase Match

1. A scientist has discovered
 2. The bee has tiny
 3. doing a survey of an endangered
 4. she gave the bee its name because
 5. the lack of conservation
 6. Australia is home to
 7. The newly-described bee is one of
 8. where they
 9. the new bee could be
 10. threatening processes like
- a. more than 2,000 species
 - b. of its horns
 - c. climate change
 - d. a new species of bee
 - e. nest
 - f. of native bees
 - g. horns on its head
 - h. at risk
 - i. wildflower
 - j. hundreds in the country

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of Australia having 2,000 species of bees?
- c) What do you know about where bees live?
- d) Have you ever been stung by a bee?
- e) What do you think of bees being at risk?
- f) What do we need bees for?
- g) Are you as busy as a bee?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Dr Prendergast?

Spelling

1. discovered a new sceseip of bee
2. bee lietocgo
3. an nnegdadeer wildflower
4. These horns are very ciistdtn and devilish
5. the lack of onrctonsieva
6. tnieav bees
7. one of nersdduh
8. eolvedv in Australia
9. We don't know their ttbriuisdion
10. bee group to be esdrdiceb
11. be at risk from atihatb disturbance
12. mletaic change

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. a	7. f	8. g	9. h	10. d

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How big are the horns on the bee's head?
2.	What kind of scientist is Dr Kit Prendergast?
3.	What was Dr Prendergast surveying when she found the bee?
4.	Where was the bee found?
5.	What issues does Dr Prendergast want to bring to light?
6.	How many native bee species are there in Australia?
7.	When was the last time a bee like Lucifer was found?
8.	What did Dr Prendergast say we still have to discover?
9.	What could be at risk from habitat disturbance besides the bee?
10.	What process might also threaten the bee?

Speaking – Useful Insects

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful insects at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Bees
- Worms
- Ants
- Butterflies
- Grasshoppers
- Ladybugs/Ladybirds
- Dragonflies
- Praying mantis

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.