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New 'Lucifer' bee with devil-like horns found – 13th November 2025

Level 0

A scientist found a new bee species in Australia. It has horns on its head. It was named *Megachile lucifer*. "Lucifer" is a name for the Devil. The scientist said: "These horns are very...devilish. I wanted to call it a devil-like name." Lucifer means "light bringer". The scientist wants to bring light to conservation issues.

Australia has 2,000 species of bees. The scientist said there are many bee species we do not know about. The Lucifer bee is the first of its kind to be found in 20 years. The scientists is worried that the new bee could be in danger. This is because of habitat loss. Climate change is also a danger.

Level 1

A scientist, Dr Kit Prendergast, found a new bee species. It has tiny horns on its head. Dr Prendergast named the bee *Megachile lucifer*. "Lucifer" is a name for the Devil. She gave the bee its name because of its horns. She said: "These horns are very...devilish. I wanted to call it a devil-like name." She added: "Lucifer means 'light bringer' in Latin. She wants to bring light to issues around conservation and saving bees.

Australia has 2,000 species of bees. The new bee is one of hundreds that have not been found. Prendergast said there are many bee species we do not know about. The Lucifer bee is the first new kind of its bee group to be found in 20 years. Prendergast said there was a lot of "life we still have to discover". She is worried that the new bee "could be at risk". This is because of a loss of habitat and "threatening" events like climate change.

Level 2

A scientist discovered a new bee species. It has tiny horns on its head. The scientist is a bee ecologist. Her name is Dr Kit Prendergast. She named the bee *Megachile lucifer*. "Lucifer" is another name for the Devil. Dr Prendergast found the bee while she was studying an endangered flower in Australia. She gave the bee its name because of its horns. She said: "These horns are very...devilish. I wanted to call it a devil-like name." She added: "Lucifer means 'light bringer' in Latin. I want to bring light to issues around the lack of conservation of native bees."

Australia has more than 2,000 species of bees. The new bee is one of hundreds in the country that have not been named. Prendergast said there are many bee species in Australia that we do not know about. She said: "We don't know their distribution or where they nest." The Lucifer bee is the first new kind of its bee group to be found in over 20 years. Prendergast said there was a lot of "life we still have to discover". She is worried that the new bee "could be at risk from habitat disturbance" and other "threatening" events like climate change.

Level 3

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 newly-described 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".

