

***Oxaea flavescens* KLUG 1807: Stabilization by designation of a lectotype  
(Hymenoptera: Andrenidae)**

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**ABSTRACT.** A lectotype is designated for *Oxaea flavescens* KLUG (1807), a widely encountered oxaeinae bee in South America and type species of the genus *Oxaea* (Anthophila: Andrenidae: Oxaeinae). The designation is done in order to fix and stabilize the application of the epithet

**KEY WORDS:** Oxaeinae, *Oxaea*, South America, taxonomy, Anthophila, bees.

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INTRODUCTION

The bee genus *Oxaea* is the most diverse of the four genera comprising the New World, andrenid subfamily Oxaeinae. Among the species of *Oxaea* there is a distinctive clade consisting of five species in which the metasoma is marked by bright metallic green or blue (sometimes even with purple as in the holotype of *Oxaea festiva* SMITH; ENGEL pers. obs.) terga or tergal bands (*O. flavescens* KLUG, *O. festiva*, *O. fuscescens* SICHEL, *O. austera* GERSTÄCKER, and *O. stenocoryphe* MOURE). The type species of the genus, *O. flavescens*, a widely encountered species of South American oxaeine, is one of these banded, metallic species (Fig. 1) and the clade is informally known as the *flavescens* group. The group occurs from northern Argentina to southern Mexico. The taxonomy of the metallic-banded species is most challenging and has been further complicated by the lack of a clearly defined type for the oldest and most widely applied of epithets, namely *O. flavescens*. Herein I provide the designation of a lectotype for *O. flavescens* from KLUG's original series so as to stabilize the application of this name in biological and taxonomic studies.

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### TAXONOMY

Series: Anthophila LATREILLE 1804

Family: Andrenidae LATREILLE 1802

Subfamily: Oxaeinae ASHMEAD 1899

Genus: *Oxaea* KLUG 1807

### *Oxaea flavescens* KLUG 1807

(Fig. 1)

### Lectotype

Lectotype (here designated) ♂ depicted in Fig. 1; labelled, “Brasilien / Bahia / Gomez S.” and “Lectotype / *Oxaea flavescens* KLUG 1807 / desig. Michael S. ENGEL” [red label]. The holotype is in the Hymenoptera Collection of the Institut für Systematische Zoologie, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin.

### Etymology

KLUG’S epithet, *flavescens* (from the Latin *flavus*), refers to the golden-yellow pubescence of the head and mesosoma.



**Fig. 1.** Photomicrographs of *Oxaea flavescens* KLUG 1807, lectotype male (designated herein); above is dorsal aspect; below is lateral habitus (not to same scale).

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