INTRODUCTION

Berg (2000) presented an overview of literature on Norwegian wild bees and concluded that some 184 species seem to have been published from Norway. Revision of museum material is necessary to establish an exact number; such work has not yet been carried out. Extensive bee collecting during the last years has resulted in three species not previously published from Norway.

THE SPECIES

Nomenclature follows Schwarz et al. (1996). Biogeographic regions are given according to Økland (1976) and EIS-squares according to Økland (1981) modified by Endrestøl (2005). The author has identified the specimens. The material is deposited in the author’s collection.

**Andrena argentata** Smith, 1844

AAI, Åmli: Kaunberget, UTM WGS84 32 V 0473592 6509833 (EIS 10), 2♂♂, 18 July 2005 leg. Ø. Berg on *Calluna vulgaris*. The specimens were collected at the edge of a sand pit; the species is known to nest in sand (Westrich 1990). The species is bivoltine; the two males collected obviously belong to the second generation.

*A. argentata* is known from temperate Europe to Western Kazakhstan (Dylewska 1987, Schmid-Egger & Scheuchl 1997). In Sweden it is found north to Dalarna (Cederberg 2008, unpublished). In Sweden the species is considered vulnerable (Gärdenfors 2005) due to loss of its sandy habitats.

*A. argentata* can be separated from its relative *A. barbilabris* (Kirby, 1802) by slightly denser punctuation on tergites 2–3, fresh specimens have rather broad tergal bands (Schmid-Egger & Scheuchl 1997). There is also a difference in the male genitalia. The penis valve is broad basally and very narrow apically in *A. barbilabris*, in *A. argentata* it is less broad basally and not that narrow apically. The two specimens have been compared with a male *A. argentata* from Denmark (det. H.B. Madsen), and 6 males of *A. barbilabris* from Norway (det F. Burger).

According to Nilsson (2003) C.G. Thomson used “*Andrena proxima* Kirby” for the taxon currently known as *A. argentata*. Thus it was deemed necessary to investigate any old records of *A. proxima* from Norway.
Schøyen reported that he found a female of “Andrena proxima” Kirby at “Ogne paa Jæderen i Juli 1882” (Schøyen 1887:6). In the collection of Natural History Museum, Oslo, there was a single specimen under a box label “proxima Kirby”. It is labelled “Ogne”/”Schøyen”, interpreted as “RY Hå: Ogna”. This must be the specimen Schøyen published. The specimen has been examined and turned out to be a female of A. barbilabris. A. barbilabris is known to occur in very large numbers on the sand dunes of Jæren (Meidell 1934). The true A. proxima (Kirby, 1802) is a Central-European species not recorded from Fennoscandia.

*Melitta leporina* (Panzer, 1799)

**BØ**, Ringerike: Busund. UTM WGS84 32 V 056910 666646 (EIS 36), 1♀, 24 July 2004 leg. Ø. Berg on *Melilotus alba*.

This is a widespread Palearctic species, recorded from Great Britain to Mongolia, north to Gulf of Bothnia. It is common in Central Europe. In Sweden it is found north to Dalarna (Cederberg 2008, unpublished). The species is oligolectic on a few species of Fabaceae, and is an important pollinator on cultivated lucerne (*Medicago sativa*) (Celary 2006, Michez & Eardley 2007).

**DISCUSSION**

Including the species listed above, there are now recorded some 186 species of bees in Norway. Further work on large genera such as *Hylaeus, Andrena, Lasioglossum, Sphecodes* and *Nomada* will presumably reveal more species. At least 200 species of bees should be found in Norway.

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