

***Hylaeus finitimus* (Perkins, 1899)**
(Hymenoptera: Colletidae: Hylaeinae)

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SUMMARY

Hylaeus finitimus is a coastal bee endemic to the island of Kauai in Hawaii. It is closely related to *H. longiceps* of Oahu and Maui Nui. The species is known only from two specimens, one of which is lost, and may be extinct.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Xerces Red List Status: Critically Imperiled (Possibly Extinct)

Other Rankings:

Canada – Species at Risk Act:	N/A
Canada – provincial status:	N/A
Mexico:	N/A
USA – Endangered Species Act:	None
USA – state status:	None
NatureServe:	GNR
IUCN Red List:	N/A

SPECIES PROFILE

DESCRIPTION

Males: Black; face yellow below the antennae, extending along the inner margin of the eye.

Females: Black, unmarked; indistinguishable from *H. longiceps*.

Hylaeus finitimus is a somewhat enigmatic species. Perkins' (1899) original description and later key (Perkins, 1910) conflict in the characters that supposedly distinguish it from *H. longiceps*, and the type male is lost.

TAXONOMIC STATUS

Hylaeus finitimus was described as *Nesoprosopis finitima* by Perkins (1899). *Nesoprosopis* was reduced to a subgenus of *Hylaeus* by Meade-Waldo (1923). The most

recent taxonomic treatment was Daly and Magnacca (2003). The lack of definitive characters separating it from *H. longiceps* suggests it may be a variety of that species.

LIFE HISTORY

Hylaeus finitimus inhabits coastal strand. It probably nests in the ground like related species. Nothing more is known about it.

DISTRIBUTION

Hylaeus finitimus has been collected from the southern coast of Kauai.

THREATS

The rarity of *H. finitimus* and lack of knowledge about its requirements make it difficult to assess threats. Coastal habitat has been heavily impacted by development and invasive plants. Its sister species, *H. longiceps*, is widespread and found abundantly wherever suitable coastal habitat exists. However, a large area of good coastal habitat remains at Polihale and Barking Sands, and *H. finitimus* has not been collected there. Other potential sites for this species exist but have not been investigated.

CONSERVATION STATUS

This species is extremely rare and may be extinct. It is known from only two specimens collected over 100 years ago.

U.S. Federal listings of rare and endangered species classed *H. finitimus* as a “Category 3A” Candidate Species, considered “probably extinct”. It currently has no status as a “Species of Concern” at the federal or state level.

CONSERVATION NEEDS

The top priority is to identify extant populations and document the continued existence of the species. The coastal site at Polihale and Barking Sands is protected by the State of Hawaii and the U.S. Air Force, but face continued impacts from visitors and military activities. Other sites are not protected and may be destroyed by development.

RESEARCH NEEDS

Locate extant populations, determine reasons for rarity.

RESOURCES

CONTACTS

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REFERENCES

Daly, H. V., and K. N. Magnacca. 2003. *Insects of Hawaii, Vol. 17: Hawaiian Hylaeus (Nesoprosopis) Bees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea)*. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu. 234 pp.

Meade-Waldo, G. 1923. Hymenoptera, fam. Apidae, subfam. Prosopidae, fasc. 181. Pp. 1-45 in P. Wytzman (ed.), *Genera Insectorum*. L. Desmet-Verteneuil, Brussels.

Perkins, R. C. L. 1899. Hymenoptera, Aculeata. Pp. 1-115 in D. Sharp (ed.), *Fauna Hawaiiensis*, Vol. 1. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

WEBSITES

Bishop Museum Extinct Species – Insects

<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/endangered/ext-insects.html>

Lists *H. finitimus* as extinct. Updated March 21, 2002.