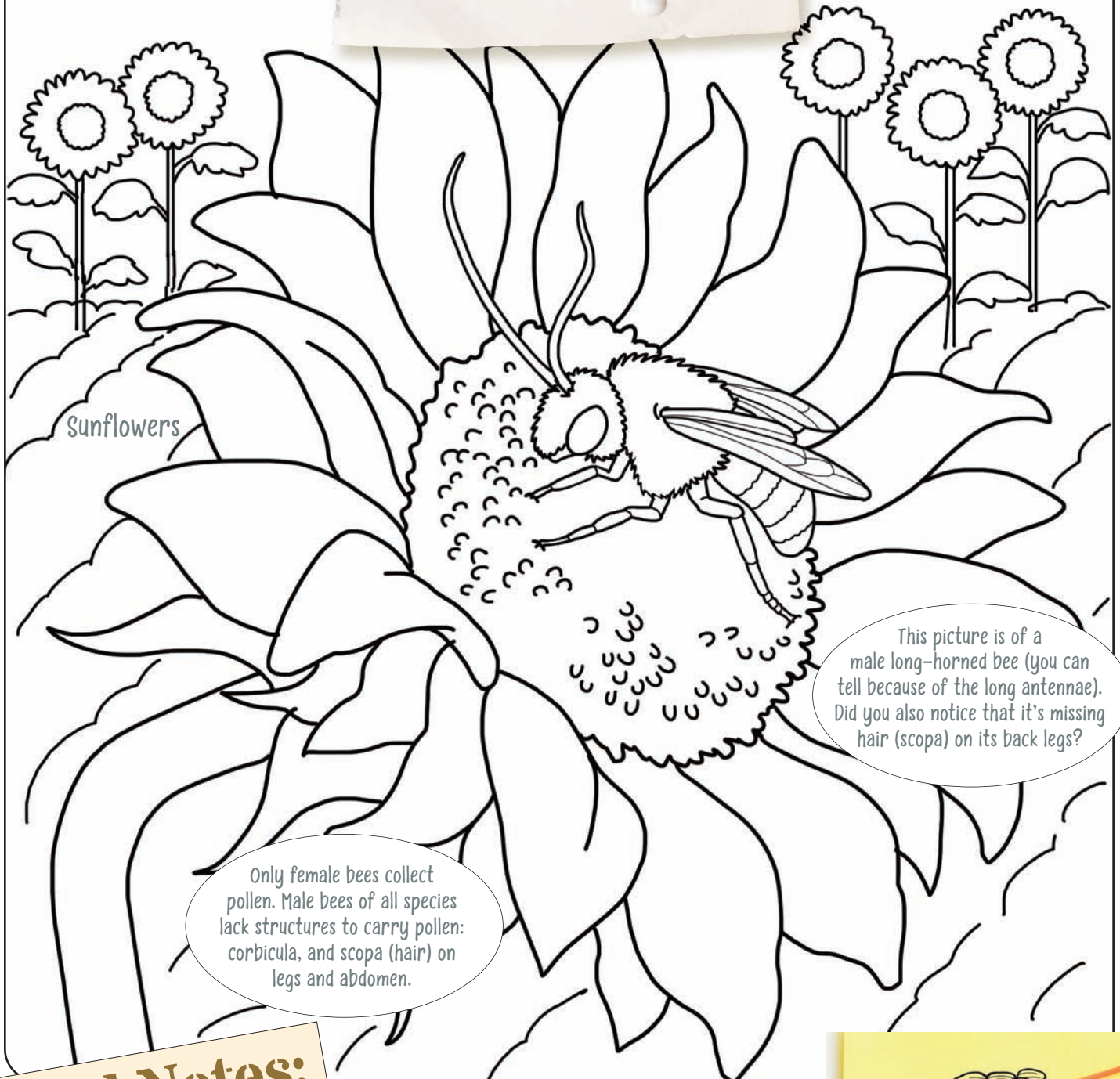


Long-Horned Bees

Genus: *Melissodes*



Sunflowers

This picture is of a male long-horned bee (you can tell because of the long antennae). Did you also notice that it's missing hair (scopa) on its back legs?

Only female bees collect pollen. Male bees of all species lack structures to carry pollen: corbicula, and scopa (hair) on legs and abdomen.

Field Notes:

Long-horned bees belong to the genus ***Melissodes*** (pronounced mel-eh-soh-dees). They are beautiful medium-sized bees that are very fuzzy. They are dark colored with yellow, black, or white hairs. Males have long antennae (horns) like the bee shown. Females have large, brush-like hairs on their back legs that they use to carry pollen. Bees in the genus *Melissodes* only visit plants in the sunflower family. Planting sunflowers in your community, and watching the blooms, is the best way to find these bees in Oregon.



The next time you eat a sunflower seed, thank a long-horned bee!