

# How-To-Draw a Generic Female *Osmia*

To begin, I like to draw the head. It is about a square with a slight rounded bump out the front end.



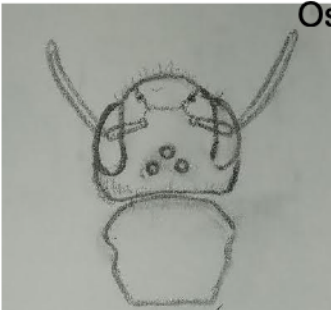
The compound eyes are ovals with very slight indents on the inside. The ocelli are arranged in about a 90' angle triangle, with its 90' angle corner pointing up.



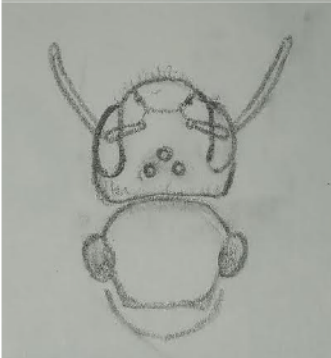
The clypeus is not covered by hairs. Drawing three lines to form a rough trapezoid is enough to show it is there. Two lines off of that will be the subantennal sutures, which are only one/per antenna (for *Osmia*).



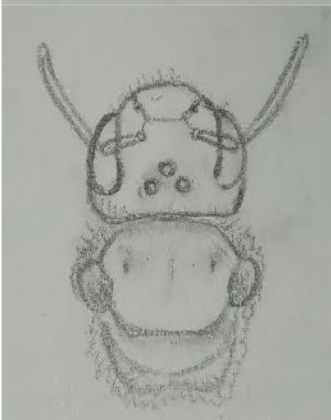
The scutum, like in many other bees, is kind of a trapezoid shape and the width of the head.



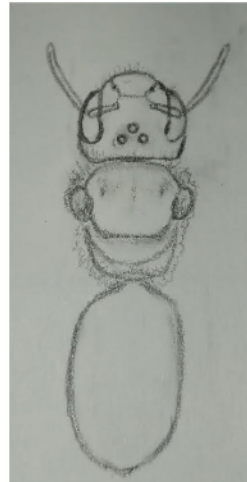
The fore tegula (the larger pair) are ovals. The hind tegula are like small ovals that off shoot from the other tegula (in appearance). The scutellum in my reference photo is a wide curve.



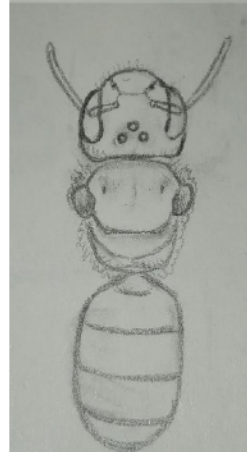
Now add the parapsidal lines (dots for *Osmia*) on the scutum. The metanotum and propodeum also are added by a |\_| shape that goes around the scutellum and attaches to the tegula. If there are many hairs on the thorax, it's a great time to add them too.



The abdomen is rounded and chunky. Nearly a rectangle, but with the top coming to a point quickly and the bottom getting rounded out.



Adding curved lines shows that the abdomen is well rounded and not flat. It also defines the tergites.

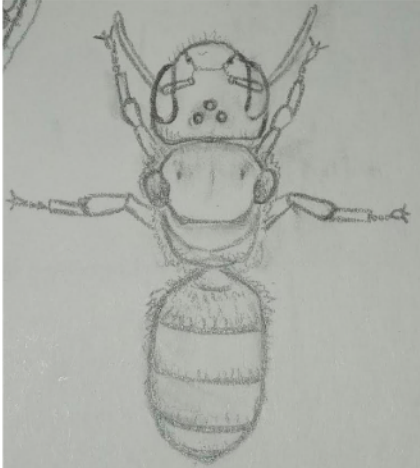


Not all *Osmia* females have many hairs on their tergites, but the one I based the drawing off of does have some sparse hairs.

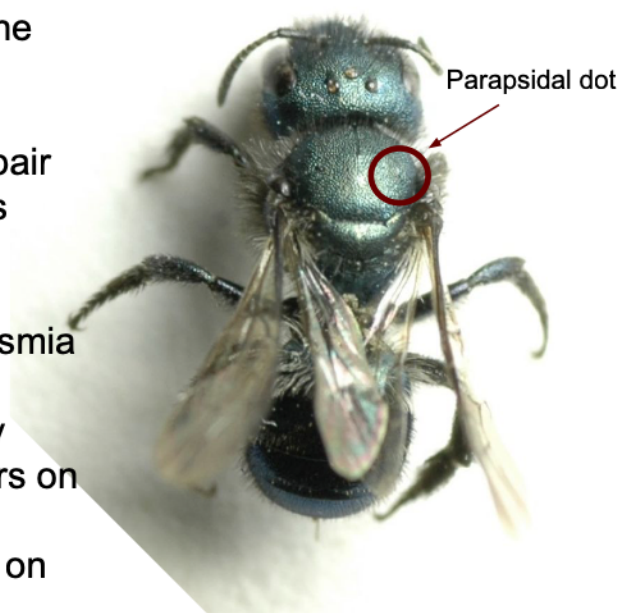




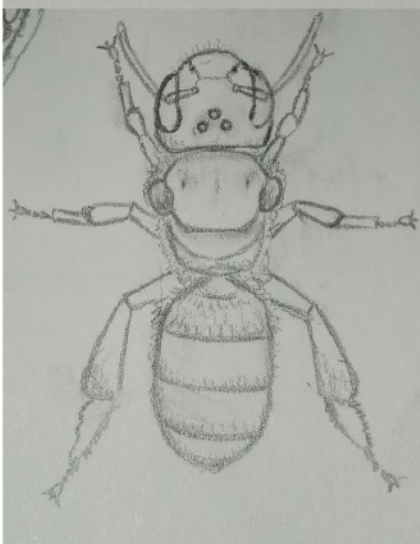
Only the three pairs of legs are left, along with the wings. Much of the legs are not seen from above, so those parts need not be included. The included parts go (from the body out): femur, tibia, basitibia, tarsi (3 which get increasingly smaller outward), and the tarsal claws (plus arolia in the middle of the claws).



The size of each leg pair increases with size as they go back.

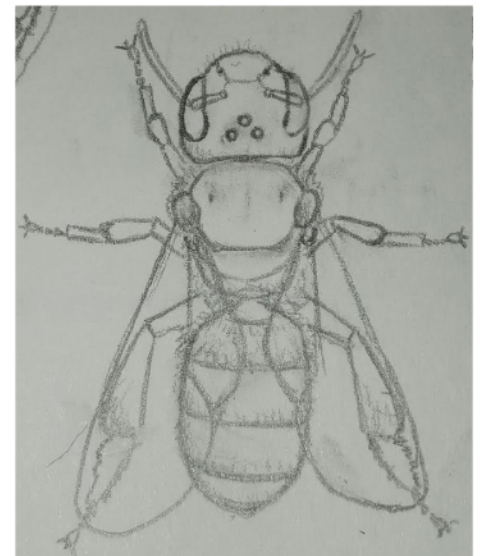


Something to note: *Osmia* is in the family Megachilidae, so they don't have scopal hairs on the legs of females. Instead, the hairs are on the underside of the abdomen.



When the wings are drawn, I find they look most natural if they have their tips at about where the tip of the abdomen is.

*The Finished Osmia*



### Key Notes on *Osmia* bee species:

1. Females have scopal hairs *under* their abdomen.
2. They are generally metallic, but not necessarily vibrantly.
3. On the scutum, the bees have parapsidal dots (lines means it isn't an *Osmia*).
4. *Osmia* females (at least for the U.S.) often nest in twigs, stems, or holes above ground.
5. One of the bee cleptoparasites of *Osmia* is the bee genus: *Stelis*.
6. Many non-native bee species in the U.S. are *Osmia* species.