



**Cover:** Australian stingless bee (*Tetragonula carbonaria*) workers walking on top of the brood comb of a colony. Typically, the female workers perform all of the manual labour in the colony and are non-reproductive. Garcia Bulle Bueno et al. (jeb230599) investigated whether the workers of this species are irreversibly sterile by separating them from the queen bee and feeding them a highly nutritious diet. They found that *T. carbonaria* workers have absolute sterility, which is a rare occurrence in social insects. This species perhaps evolved absolute worker sterility because colonies under natural conditions are likely to always have a queen. Photo credit: Francisco Garcia Bulle Bueno.

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