



**COLEOPTERA
 BEETLES**

HYMENOPTERA



WASPS



BEES

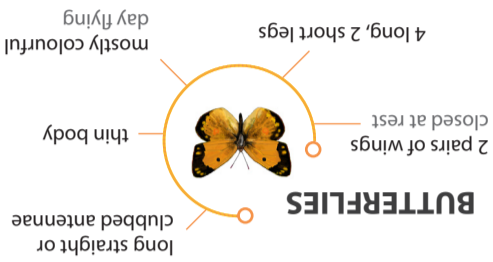
DIPTERA



HOVERFLIES



BEE FLIES



BUTTERFLIES



MOTHS

LEPIDOPTERA

POLLINATING INSECTS

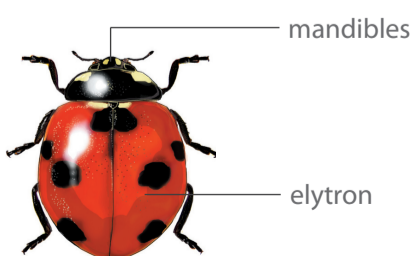
BEETLES

Beetle pollinators can be found on flowers mostly from spring to summer. Their larvae develop as consumers of organic material, and are free-living predators or kleptoparasites, mostly of other insects.

IDENTIFY BEETLES IN THE FIELD

- Flower visiting beetles are found on a variety of open flowers.
- The forewings are modified into elytra (sing. elytron), i.e. very hard pair of wings that cover and protect the abdomen and the hind pair of membranous wings.
- The mouthparts are of the biting or chewing type, with strong mandibles.
- Most pollinating beetles are dark-coloured, but some of them have bright red or green colours.
- In general, beetles are among the most sedentary of all flower-visiting insects (except buprestid beetles), spending much time on the flowers and less moving on and between flowers and plants.

BEETLE ANATOMY SIMPLIFIED



LIFE 4 POLLINATORS

The aim of the project is to improve pollinator conservation by creating a virtuous circle leading to a progressive change in practices across the Mediterranean region.



In the Mediterranean countries there is inadequate awareness about the role of wild pollinators and the importance of conserving their diversity. This knowledge gap is one of the main obstacles to proper planning of successful programmes to address the main drivers behind pollinator decline and ensure sustainable management and restoration of the remaining high-value pollinator habitats.

The project will contribute to a range of EU policy and legislation matters, including amongst others the biodiversity strategy, the pollinators initiative and biodiversity protection under the common agricultural policy.

LIFE 4 POLLINATORS
 BEETLES AS POLLINATORS
 IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
FIELD GUIDE

The LIFE 4 POLLINATORS project (LIFE 18 GIE/IT/000755) has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union



BEEYLES


Acmaeoderella villosula

BODY No open space between the thorax and the elytra, both with the same width.

BODY Metallic blue elytra.

Beetle of the family Buprestidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Apiaceae.



May-June DIMENSIONS: 7-10 mm

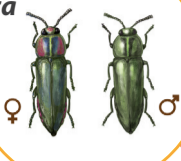
Anthaxia hungarica

BODY No open space between the thorax and the elytra, both with the same width.

BODY Metallic green elytra female with characteristic red markings on the thorax.

Beetle of the family Buprestidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae.




May-June DIMENSIONS: 12-14 mm

Anthrenus pimpinellae

BODY Characteristic patterns of tomentose hairs on the entire body.

Small beetle of the family Dermestidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Apiaceae, Asteraceae and Rosaceae.



April-July DIMENSIONS: 3-4 mm


Stictoleptura cordigera

BODY Long and serrate antennae.

BODY Red elytra with characteristic black pattern.

Long beetle of the family Cerambycidae.

Found on a wide variety of flowers.



May-July DIMENSIONS: 13-15 mm


Cetonia aurata

BODY Green metallic elytra with white spots.

Large beetle of the family Scarabaeidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae and Rosaceae.

Antennae with club-shaped tip and lamellate.




April-July DIMENSIONS: 15-20 mm

Coccinella septempunctata

BODY Red elytra with 3 spots on each side and one frontal spot in the center.

Small lady beetle of the family Coccinellidae.

Rarely found on flowers, usually on Asteraceae or Apiaceae.




March-Oct. DIMENSIONS: 5-8 mm

Mylabris quadripunctata

BODY Orange elytra with black spots.

Orange and black beetle of the family Meloidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae.




May-July DIMENSIONS: 12-16 mm

Mylabris variabilis

BODY Orange elytra with black bands.

Orange and black beetle of the family Meloidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae.



May-July DIMENSIONS: 10-16 mm


Oedemera flavipes

BODY Long filiform antennae.

Small slender beetle of the family Oedemeridae.

The entire body dull metallic green.

Found mostly on flowers of Cistaceae and Asteraceae.



April-May DIMENSIONS: 6-8 mm

Oxythyrea funesta


BODY The upper thorax has 2 longitudinal rows of 3 spots each.

Pattern of white spots on elytra.

Large beetle of the family Scarabaeidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae and Apiaceae.

Antennae with club-shaped tip and lamellate.



April-July DIMENSIONS: 10-12 mm


Podonta sp.

BODY Oval body and threadlike antennae.

Black beetle of the family Alleculidae or Tenebrionidae.

Relatively long legs and tarsi.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae.




May-June DIMENSIONS: 7-9 mm

Ptilothrix viridicoerulea

BODY The entire body dull metallic green.

Small green beetle of the family Melyridae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae.



March-May DIMENSIONS: 5-6 mm


Pygopleurus foina

BODY Hairy and large beetles with club-shaped tip and lamellate.

Large beetle of the family Glaphyridae.

Bright metallic green, blue or orange thorax, very variable.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae, Papaveraceae and Ranunculaceae.



April-May DIMENSIONS: ♀ 10-14 mm ♂ 10-12 mm

Pygopleurus vulpus


BODY Hairy and large beetles with club-shaped tip and lamellate.

Large beetle of the family Glaphyridae.

Found mostly on flowers of Papaveraceae.

The entire body covered with bright orange hairs.

Very similar to *P. foina*, but generally with more lighter hairs.



April-May DIMENSIONS: ♀ 10-12 mm ♂ 11-13 mm

Rhagonycha fulva


BODY Largely orange or red, also the upper part of the legs.

Elytra with characteristic black tip.

Soldier beetle or beetle of the family Cantharidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Apiaceae and Asteraceae.

Black antennae and tarsi.



May-July DIMENSIONS: 8-10 mm

Stenopterus rufus

BODY Long and serrate antennae.


Antennae and legs contrasting red and black.

Slender beetle of the family Cerambycidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Apiaceae.

Thighs thickened towards the end.

Elytra very slender towards the tip.



May-July DIMENSIONS: 13-15 mm


Trichius sp.

BODY Characteristic yellow and black elytra.

Hairy and large beetle of the family Scarabaeidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Apiaceae and Asteraceae.

Antennae with club-shaped tip and lamellate.




May-July DIMENSIONS: 12-15 mm

Trichodes sp.

BODY Antennae with a club-shaped tip.

Bright metallic blue or green and red beetle of the family Cleridae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae and many others.



March-May DIMENSIONS: 10-18 mm

Tropinota hirta


BODY All covered in yellow or brown hairs.

Often with white spots on the elytra.

Very hairy and large beetle of the family Scarabaeidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Asteraceae, Rosaceae and Apiaceae.

Antennae with club-shaped tip and lamellate.



May-June DIMENSIONS: 10-13 mm


Variimorda sp.

BODY The end of the abdomen tapering into a sharp and elongated tip.

Small dark beetle of the family Mordellidae.

Found mostly on flowers of Apiaceae.

Elytra dark with pale patches.



May-July DIMENSIONS: 6-8 mm