

κατρεκ δαίκy body

° sələllor

sngwog

odozoi/x

**NO OK FEW HAIRS** 

SUTCTUS шпѕѕоїбоїѕрт

muibidinA

רקימנוחמ

YAIAH

DIWSO

о <u>аlidoppe</u>

oualpub

o plasna

Anthophora

## WHY BEES?

**ΔΑΡΤΟΟΡΤΕΚΑ** 

COLLETIDAE

ААПТОЛАН

меекснігірке

Bees are part of the pollinators guild altogether with butterflies, flies, beetles and other insects. All of them play a fundamental role in plant reproduction, but bees are a bit special amongst them. While other pollinators visit flowers only to feed themselves, female bees collect on flowers the nurture for their well-cared brood.

thick body

antennae short feathery

The long bee tongue (ligula) is used to collect nectar from flowers, whilst the long and plumose hairs are used to gather the pollen grains. However, bees make up a surprisingly diverse group in shape, color and size. Thus, we can find on flowers almost hairless bees with short ligule, which we cannot easily distinguish from the predatory wasps from which they evolved millions of years ago.

## **IDENTIFICATION TIPS**

#### **MORE THAN ONE BEE**

upper and lower

2 pairs of wings

**SHTOM** 

The word "bee" is often referred solely to the honey bee, the highly social insect well known to provide the hive products. However, the honeybee is just one of more than 2000 bee species in Europe. The so-called wild bees, counting solitary, social and parasitic species, visit flowers and provide some extent of pollination service.

large round eyes

#### **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 comparison to flies

smaller eyes

# **POLLINATING INSECTS**

**BEES** 

longer antennae

# **IDENTIFICATION OF BEES**

# **(YTIJI8AI8AV)**

more than one class per category may be present. we propose several classes. In each morphogenus and tegument colour. For each of these categories, The traits you need to observe at first are size, hairs

## :ƏZIS

BEES

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## :'isH

of the body Long hairs: furry bees with long hair on most Short hairs: spots or bands of short dense hair Hairless: only few hairs on the body surface

– АИДКЕИІДАЕ

COLLETIDAE

MEGACHILIDAE

**BEE FLIES** 

Assessing the diversity of wild bee is a good mean to evaluate the environmental complexity and resilience. Whenever we find many different bee species, we assume a great floristic diversity and an overall healthy ecosystem.

This is a simplified guide, which, based on visible morphological traits only, allows the bees to be recognised within 15 morpho-groups and not at the level of individual species

Bees species are not easy to identify, but we regroup them in few big groups of species called morphogenera defined by few traits.

The traits you need to observe at first are size, hairs and tegument colour. For each of these categories, we propose several classes. In each morphogenus more than one class per category may be present.

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 highvalue pollinator habitats.

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



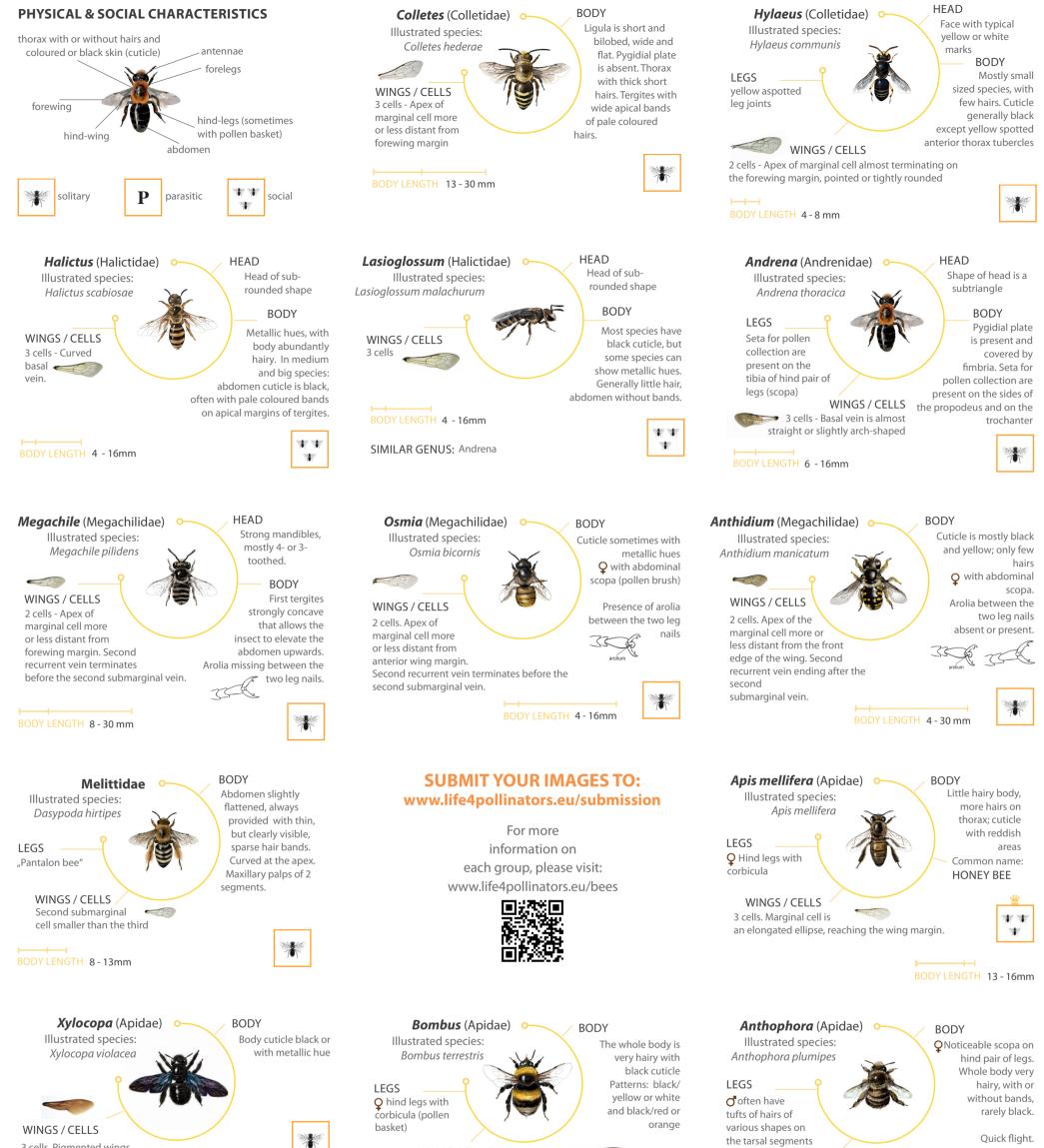
#### **BEES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**FIELD GUIDE** 



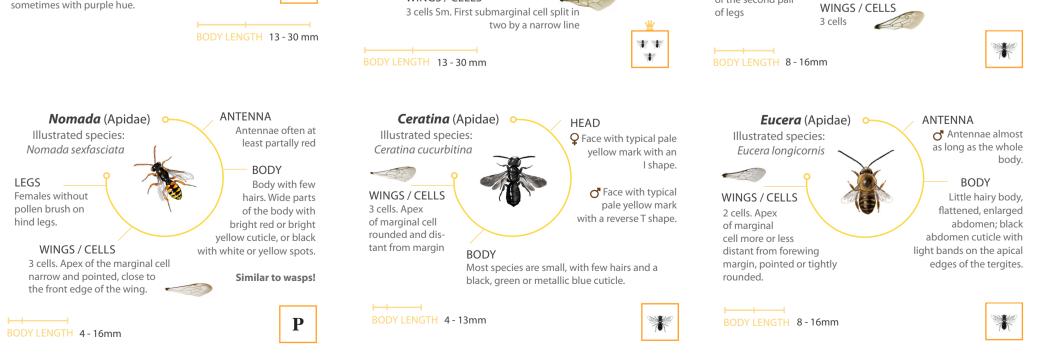
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3 cells. Pigmented wings,

of the second pair



WINGS / CELLS