



# YORKSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## The Yorkshire National

Edition 19

October 2019

[Chairmans Notes](#)

[Microscopy Course](#)

[Mead Course Summary](#)

[October In The Apiary](#)

[What 3 Words](#)

[Module Days – availability](#)

[Events Open For All](#)

[Calender](#)

[YBKA Committee](#)

[District Contacts](#)

[BBKA Forum](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[AHAT Information](#)

[Asian Hornet Identification](#)

Welcome to the October 2019 edition of the YBKA newsletter.

My bees are all prepared for the end of another year and the GPC are getting prepared for our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 30 November. Who will survive?

Details of the AGM have been sent out to all association secretaries and I hope that many of you will put the date in your diary. Come along and meet the committee, have your say and partake in the customary free buffet lunch.

Apparently, the country's retiring poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy devoted her first poetry collection to bees describing them as "dipping and tickling" and working "nectar-slurred, pollen-furred" for the collective good. Very poetic.

An item in the Times suggests that bees are good for more than just inspiring poets or making honey. According to an academic, Dr. Ross Gillanders, bees could be deployed to the front line to rid areas of landmines. Less expensive to keep than dogs (I'm not so sure about that), bees can be taught to associate certain smells with sugar water. Once released into a danger zone, they associate the smell from explosives with sugar water and settle on a landmine! I for one can't wait to try this!

Phil Gee

Chairman

**Yorkshire  
Beekeepers  
Association**

**AGM**

**Saturday  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Pavillion,  
Great Yorkshire Showground**

## BBKA MICROSCOPY CERTIFICATE - COURSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YBKA MEMBERS

Are you thinking of taking your BBKA Microscopy certificate? There are 2 course options in the North of England for YBKA Members this coming Autumn / Winter, which cover all aspects of the BBKA Microscopy syllabus:

1. 6-7 days with John Charlton at Manchester Grammar School
2. 5 days with Harrogate & Ripon Beekeepers in Harrogate

### 1. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR COURSE

Bookings on the Manchester course can be done direct with John Charlton at [johncharlton151@gmail.com](mailto:johncharlton151@gmail.com) tel: 0161 973 8961. The cost for all the 6 or 7 sessions is £80, payable on the first day of the course, plus one jar of honey

### MICROSCOPY COURSE WITH JOHN CHARLTON MANCHESTER GRAMMAR DATES:

### 2. HARROGATE & RIPON COURSE – Places still available

HRBKA propose to run a Microscopy Course beginning in January 2020. This will prepare students for the assessment leading to the BBKA Microscopy Certificate.

The course requires a considerable outlay in equipment and a commitment to work at home to produce the necessary slides and to practise dissection. The course fee will be £75.

There will be four all day meetings held on Sundays from January to March, with a final session in July. The dates of the course are 26/1/20, 16/2/20, 8/3/20 and (tbc) 12/7/20.

There will be a preliminary meeting for those who are interested in taking the Course, to be held at the Hives and Honey Pavilion on Sunday 10th November 2019 starting at 10:00. The purchase of equipment, such as microscopes, can be discussed at this meeting.

**Booking will be available to non-HRBKA members from 15th September 2019, if there are places available.**

Please contact Shirley Bond for an application form and more details.

Shirley Bond

email [membership@hrbka.org.uk](mailto:membership@hrbka.org.uk)

[Full details of the BBKA Microscopy syllabus are here](#)

If you are interested in either course, contact John or Shirley direct. Both are likely to be popular!

Elaine Robinson

YBKA Education Officer

### **Mead Making Course Summary**

A full day learning about the art of making mead and melomel, was held in Harrogate with 21 YBKA members and 1 Harrogate and Ripon member on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. Our tutors were Tony Jefferson and Dave Shannon. Both experienced honey judges who have won prizes at National level for their brews

Tony and Dave talked about which honeys are suitable for mead making, the types of yeasts and other key ingredients, including the importance of choosing the right type of water! Both shared their award-winning recipes and gave demonstrations how to set up the initial brew.

The all-important tasting session followed in the afternoon, with participants trying meads from the dry to sweet and melomels made with a variety of fruit.

Each member took away recipes and a full kit to get their first brew started, with guidance on how to rack off and bottle in time for Christmas. Now is a perfect time, after honey extraction, to keep a few jars aside, to make another delicious product from your hives.

Elaine Robinson

YBKA Education Officer



## October in the Apiary

By October most beekeepers will have taken off and extracted or pressed out the last of the honey (or have it stored away in the supers in a nice warm place to process later). Varroa treatments should be complete, or on the verge of completion, and preparations for winter should now be in full swing

I prefer to leave at least two thirds of a super of honey on each colony for winter plus what they have stored away in the brood chamber. I then top this super and any remaining space within the brood box, by feeding syrup to the bees. A thick concentrated syrup at this time of year is essential. If you're mixing your own, add a 1kg bag of white sugar to just under a pint of water. Warm this in quantities that you can feed to your colonies the same evening. If they are still taking it down, then do another batch so it's nice and warm and fresh. When your colonies are all fed and each colony has around 45-55lb of stores to last them through to Easter next year, it's time to wrap them up for the winter months ahead.

At the end of the month place your mouse guards on each hive and return your warm quilts to the underside of your lids. Hives lose heat through the lids as warm air rises, so by placing a thick quilt or Kingspan sheet on each crown board you are providing insulation and the bees don't have to expend energy to maintaining hive temperature. Modern hives have ventilation slots to enable condensation to escape. Make sure your quilts don't block these slots up. Along with retaining the heat, it's vital that you keep good ventilation throughout the hive. This stops the formation of mould reduces the risk of your colonies contracting nosema!

Place a heavy stone on your lids in out-apiaries, but don't strap them up as this makes it easier for thieves to remove your hives. Unfortunately, colonies do get stolen throughout the winter months so be on your guard and check your hives on a regular yet random basis.

As a final word I would like to send my good wishes and good luck to the new Chief Steward at our YBKA honey show - Mark Millard from Wakefield BKA, on his first solo after taking over from me at last year's show. Also, a big thank you to all the stewards and especially to all the competitors who have entered the show. I will be away this year judging at the Northern Ireland Show that weekend so will sadly miss it for the first time in 17 years.

Keep your bees well fed, warm and safely out of sight!

Dave Shannon

## What3Words App

Being a beekeeper can get you in to some quite isolated locations and if the worst was to happen and you needed the Emergency Services to help then it can become quite difficult to explain where you are.

This is where this app "what3words" app comes in extremely useful. This is now being used by emergency services up and down the UK ([here](#)).

How does it work? It's very simple: for every 3m square area on the planet, this app gives each single square a set of unique 3 words, so you can pass those 3 words (that you get from the app) to an emergency operator and they know exactly where you are.

So, for example:

The YBKA Pavilion at the Great Yorkshire Showground is: insect.love.funds

The best thing is, it's free! Download the app [here](#)



## **2019 Autumn Module Study Days**

Are you thinking of taking any of the BBKA Module examinations, or currently studying for them?

### **Module 6 - 2 places left**

The YBKA winter module tutorials are the ideal way to learn and study with a group of like-minded beekeepers

Each tutorial will cover an overview of the syllabus, with an expert tutor, who will guide you through what is required within the module

Held at the YBKA pavilion at the Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate, from 9.30am till 3pm

**Saturday 7 December with Bronwen White & Roger Pool**

**Module 6 Honeybee Behaviour**

These tutorials are free and are a great way to learn together in informal surroundings. There is no obligation to apply for taking an exam

**To book a place please register via the following link on the YBKA website**

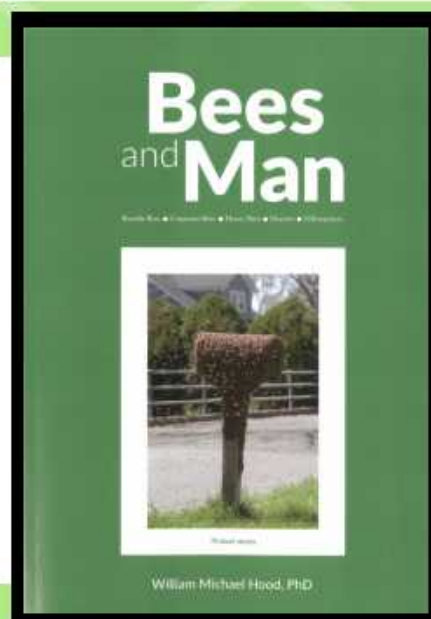
**[Click here to register](#)**

**Please note, places are strictly limited and so offered to current Members of YBKA only**

**Elaine Robinson YBKA Education Officer**

## New title Bees and Man by Michael Hood.

Dr. Hood was in an enviable position that enabled him to visit many beekeepers and situations with bees. The reader is introduced to some very interesting and creative beekeepers and Dr. Hood's intertwined explanations of the honey bee's life, along with other relatives such as yellowjackets, make this book useful for a broad range of readers. Prepare to be amused and educated as you read through the short stories of beekeepers and beekeeping events that made Dr. Hood's career with bees a pleasure and sometimes a challenge.



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Email: [michaeljohnduckett@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljohnduckett@gmail.com)

## District Events for All

### Halifax and District BKA 2019 Events Calendar

Wednesday 9th October - HBKA  
AGM

Saturday 26th October 10.00—12.00  
Beginners and Mentors Review  
(Followed by lunch at the Hinchcliffe  
Arms Woodland View, Cragg Vale  
Halifax HX7 5TB. Tel: 01422 886114

Wednesday 13th November -  
"Research into hive activity and  
lessons learned" A talk by Jane  
Mossley, Eat Natural – Pollination

**If your Association is running an  
event and is happy for members of  
other districts to attend, please e-  
mail details to me at:  
[newsletter@ybka.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ybka.org.uk) and I will  
make sure it is included in the next  
issue**

### YBKA Calendar of events

Friday 4th October: GPC Meeting  
(Harrogate) 6pm

(Proposed) Sunday 6th October:  
Study Day

October 19th/20th: Countryside  
Live & YBKA Honey Show  
(Harrogate)

October 24th – 26th: National  
Honey Show

(Proposed) Saturday 2nd November:  
Study Day

Friday 8th November: GPC Meeting (Harrogate) 6pm

(Proposed) Saturday 9th November: Module Exams (Harrogate)

Saturday 30th November: AGM 10am (Harrogate)

(Proposed) Saturday, 7th December: Study Day.

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# Committee

| Position                                                | Name              | Contact Information           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chairman                                                | Phil Gee          | pjgphilgee@btinternet.com     |
| School Days Organiser                                   |                   | 01422 886114 / 07769 650059   |
| Area Rep: Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield & Pontefract |                   |                               |
| Vice Chair                                              | Roger Chappel     | yorkshirebka@gmail.com        |
| General Secretary                                       |                   | 01325 315741 / 07905 190701   |
| Area Rep: Northallerton, Thirsk, Richmond, Rydale       |                   |                               |
| Treasurer                                               | Norbert cooper    | norbert.cooper@btinternet.com |
|                                                         |                   | 01937 834 809 / 07957 404 047 |
| Education Officer                                       | Elaine Robinson   | education@ybka.org.uk         |
| Area rep: Beverley                                      |                   |                               |
| Webmaster                                               | David Lamont      | davidlamont431@btinternet.com |
| Area rep: Bradford                                      |                   | 01274 619787 / 07968 817153   |
| Honey Show Chief Steward                                | Mark Millard      | mark.millard@yahoo.co.uk      |
|                                                         |                   | 01924 271 203 / 07497 429 646 |
| Bee Health Liaison Officer Ivor Flatman                 |                   | ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk   |
| Area rep: Barnsley                                      |                   | 01924 257089 / 07751 061 753  |
| Newsletter Editor                                       | Chris Barlow      | newsletter@ybka.org.uk        |
|                                                         |                   | 07849 150 837                 |
| Equipment/Resources Officer                             | Derrie O'Sullivan | derrie@ntlworld.com           |
|                                                         |                   | 07801 953 145                 |

## Area Reps

|           |                  |                                |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Leeds     | Kirit Gordhandas | ybkarep@leedsbeekeepers.org.uk |
| Rotherham | Bronwen White    | bron@mistral138.plus.com       |

01142 307957

|                        |                 |                                                       |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Barkston Ash           | Greg Sharp      | gandjsharp@hotmail.co.uk<br>07746 986 716             |
| Doncaster              | Dave Shannon    | 01302 772837 / 07907 856515                           |
| York & Malton          | Vicki Leaf      | vicki@glade-farm.co.uk<br>07847 327 861               |
| Airedale & Scarborough | Linda Schofield | gorluvaduck@gmail.com<br>01535 609379 / 07853 651 965 |
| Whitby                 | Tony Jefferson  | stoneleabees@yahoo.co.uk<br>07749 731945              |

### **District Contacts**

|               |                   |                                                           |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Easingwold    |                   |                                                           |
| Richmond      | Peter Creek       | creekpeter@rocketmail.com<br>01748 812075 / 07922 087877  |
| Northallerton |                   |                                                           |
| Malton        | Bob Hirst         | pamandbob@btinternet.com<br>01904 706 111 / 07505 865 887 |
| Wharfedale    | John Forsyth      |                                                           |
| Doncaster     | Miranda Dickinson | miranda@thorneyford.co.uk<br>07766 737 682                |
| Beverley      | Simon Maslin      | 4simonm@gmail.com<br>01482 656 018                        |
| Selby         | Chriss Lines      | chriss.line@icloud.com<br>07800 767555                    |

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subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2BXpFns>

## **BBKA Forum**

[The BBKA have a new online forum. This is the web address. Pop along, sign up and say hello.](http://www.bbkaforum.co.uk)  
[www.bbkaforum.co.uk](http://www.bbkaforum.co.uk)

## **Classified Adverts**

**Do you have anything bee related for sale or wanting something bee related? If so, please email [newsletter@ybka.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ybka.org.uk) the editor for a free sale or wanted listing:**

### **Beekeeper winding down so some hives for sale**

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Strong colonies

£300 each or buy two for £500 and get a free folding stand. Contact [vera.rider@ntlworld.com](mailto:vera.rider@ntlworld.com), Tel: 07828 199 739

Maisemores Sale started 1/10/19 - [www.bees-online.co.uk](http://www.bees-online.co.uk)

## **The following pages are about ASIAN HORNET**

## **Please print out and circulate the follow pages.**

**The following 3 pages are all issued by the NBU**

Print out and put in your apiary under a hive roof

Print out and give to friends

Print out and hang up lots of copies in the association apiary for people to pick up and take away

Please print and give to friends, family and even people you don't really like!

Beekeepers can help to be part of the first line of defence against this menace

IF YOU SPOT AN ASIAN HORNET

Contact the NBU

There is even an APP!!! For Android and Apple

## **AHAT - Asian Horney Action Teams - Join the team**

### **- Contact Ivor Flatman**

You will have noted in various sources (eg BBKA News) that there are several initiatives intended to thwart the build-up of any Asian Hornet colonies. The emergence of hornet queens is the initial concern and, although we are situated in the northern region of the UK this is not a reason for complacency. YBKA is keen to ensure all our districts are as well informed as possible and we'd like to play a part in supporting members to set up monitoring traps, encourage recruitment of AHAT's and we are considering the idea of purchasing traps which districts can use.

Ivor Flatman will be our co-ordinator, the first port of call if any Asian hornet locations are suspected. To this end it would be helpful if you could supply the name of one of your members who would be prepared to liaise with Ivor should any problems arise. Please supply the details of this person to Ivor Flatman as soon as possible. It should be stressed that beekeepers are not expected to deal with any AH nests or follow up sightings themselves, but it is important that any sightings/captured hornets are reported to the NBU/NNSS via the AH watch app, email etc. Hopefully AH sightings will be limited and the NBU will coordinate any response for the present.

**Contact: Ivor Flatman AHAT Co-ordinator - [ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk](mailto:ivor.flatman@homecall.co.uk)**

### **Asian Hornet Information**

THE BBKA IS URGING ITS MEMBERS TO ACT NOW IN ORDER TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DETECTION OF ASIAN HORNETS

Defra has issued new advice that all beekeepers, in areas of the country where there are no Asian Hornets at present, should set out MONITORING traps for Asian Hornets baited with meat or fish late in the year. Early in the year, use something sweet.

[For an NBU guide on how to make a trap, click here \(PDF document\)](#)

[For an NBU video guide on how to make an Asian hornet trap, click here \(you tube video\)](#)

[Government news article here. UK sightings in 2019](#)

[A very good documentary about the Asian hornet and its effects in Italy with an English voice over. Click Here](#)

# Have you seen this insect?

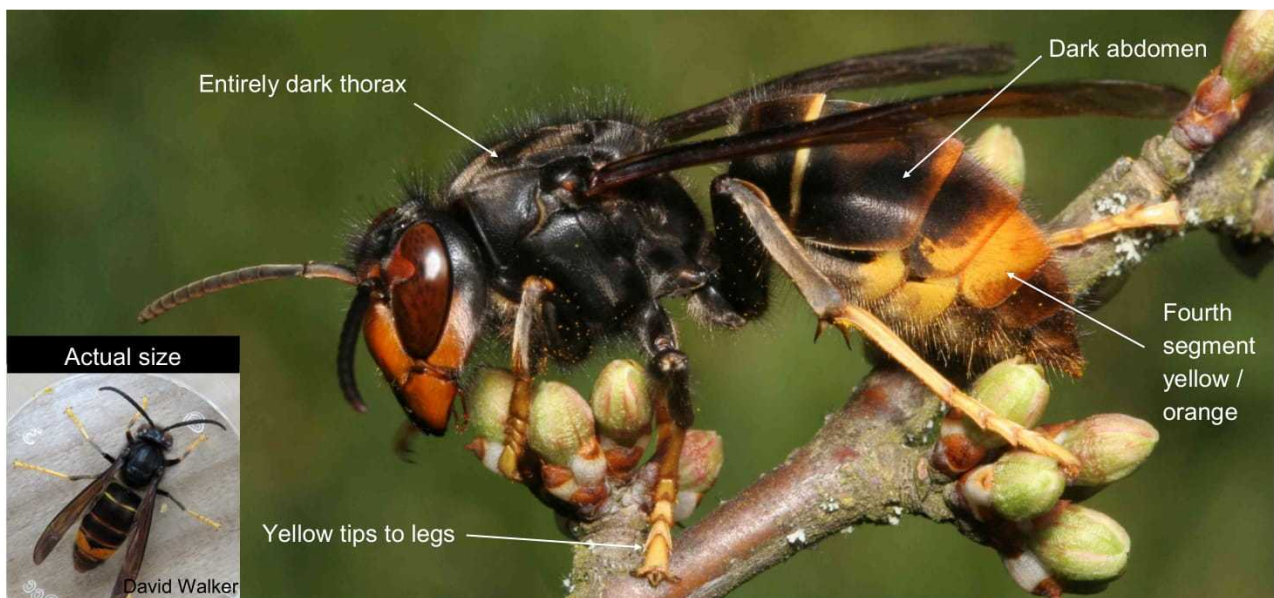
## ASIAN HORNET

*Vespa velutina*

### What is it?

An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK.

**Suspected sightings should be reported immediately using the details provided at the bottom of this poster.**



### Where might I see it?

May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls.

Active from February to November across England and Wales.

### What does it look like?

- ☐ Slightly smaller than native hornet
- ☐ Dark abdomen, 4th segment yellow / orange
- ☐ Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark)
- ☐ Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet more orange)

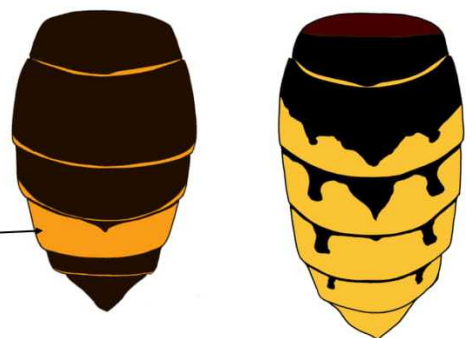
Asian hornet nest



'Hawks' outside honey bee colonies



Asian hornet abdomen Native hornet abdomen



### **DANGER!**

This hornet stings.  
Do not disturb an active nest.  
Seek advice using the details below.

**Report any sightings of this species:**

with the free iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**

online at: **[www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet)**

by email: **[alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)**

# Asian Hornet

## Alert!

### Report sightings of this species:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: [www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet)
- by email: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)

## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Vespa velutina*

**AKA:** Yellow-legged Hornet

**Native to:** Asia

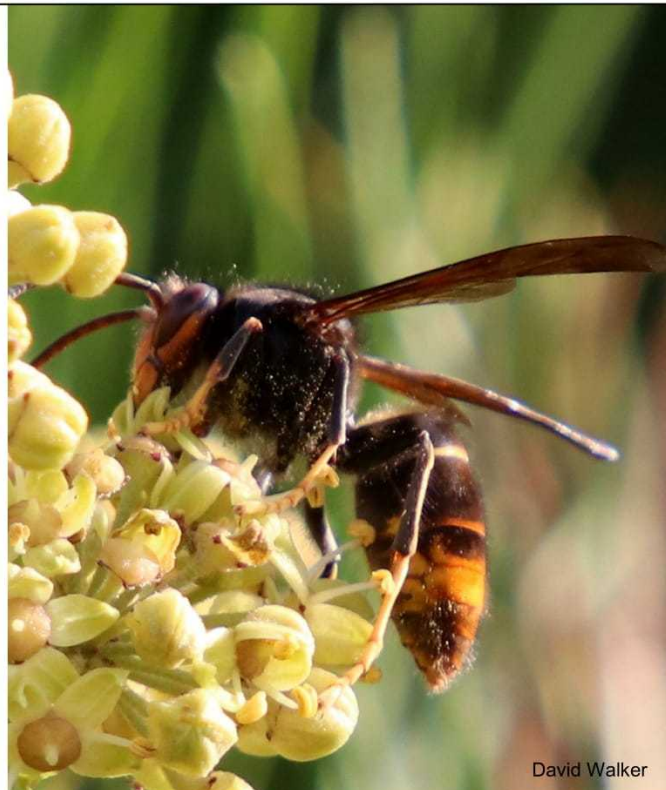
**Habitat:** Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

Not easily confused with any other species. Dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. Smaller than the native European Hornet.

Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, in vehicles, or in/on untreated timber. The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.

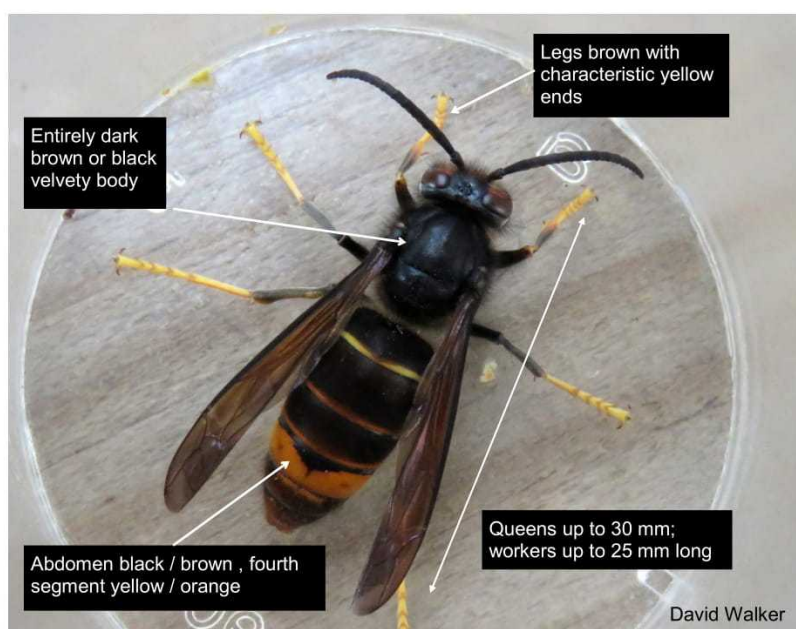
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

**Do not disturb an active nest. Members of the public who suspect they have found an Asian Hornet should report it with a photo using the details provided in the red box at the top of this ID sheet.**



David Walker

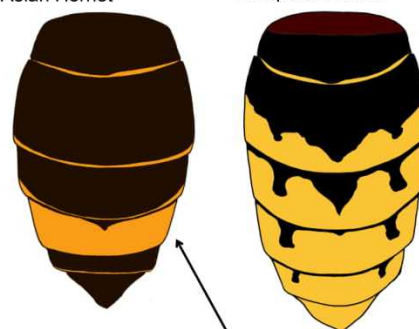
## Key ID Features



David Walker

Asian Hornet

European Hornet



Asian Hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark except for 4th abdominal segment.



Asian hornet "hawking" for honey bee prey

J. Haxaire

### Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) for comparison

- Queen up to 30mm long, worker up to 25mm long
- Legs yellow at the ends
- Dark brown / black abdomen with a yellow / orange band on 4th segment
- Head dark from above, orange from front
- Dark coloured antennae
- Entirely black velvety thorax
- Never active at night

Actual size



Q. Rome

## Similar Species

### European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

- Queen up to 35mm long, worker up to 30mm long
- Legs brown at the ends
- Yellow abdomen marked with brown on the upper part, not banded
- Head yellow from above, yellow from front
- Yellow antennae
- Thorax black with extensive brown markings
- May be active at night

Actual size



Roger Burgess

Mia Tonge, National Bee Unit

### Giant woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)

- Larger than Asian hornet, female up to 45mm long
- Legs yellow
- Distinctive yellow and black banded abdomen
- Long cylindrical body unlike Asian hornet which has an obvious waist
- Long yellow antennae
- Female has an obvious long sting-like appendage (ovipositor) which it uses to lay eggs in trees

Actual size



Q. Rome

### Hornet mimic hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*)

- Abdomen has more yellow stripes than Asian hornet
- Legs darker than Asian hornets
- Only one pair of wings (hornets and wasps have two pairs)
- Large, globular eyes

Actual size



Didier Descouens



Alvesgaspar

### Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*)

- More extensive yellow and orange colouration on abdominal segments than Asian hornet
- Yellow markings on thorax unlike Asian hornet

Actual size



Q. Rome

## Field Signs

Active April-November (peak August/September). Mated queens over winter singly or in groups, in various natural and man-made harbourages – underneath tree bark in cavities left by beetle larvae, in soil, on ceramic plant pots – potentially any small, well-insulated refuge. Makes very large nests in tall trees in urban and rural areas, but avoids pure stands of conifers. Will use man made structures (garages, sheds etc.) as nesting sites.



### For more information visit:

[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)  
[www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)

### Report sightings of this species:

# Alert!

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: [www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet)
- by email: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)