



Quick guide to Insect Identification for the Wild Pollinator Count

Tips to help you count insects in the correct categories.

Enter your results from a 10-minute count on a flowering plant of your choice at:

<https://wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/>

wildpollinatorcount.com

BEE

Look for:



- **Body shape** hourglass, with 'waist' and cylindrical abdomen & thorax.

- **Pollen-carrying hair** (scopa) on legs or abdomen (for many females, not all)



- **Long antennae** often with kink/elbow

- **Eyes** long, oval, at side of 'face', often black



- **Wings** often on back at rest and shorter than the body (2 pairs)

- **Head** triangular or tear-shaped

* With more than 1,600 species of bees in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

FLY

Look for:

- **Eyes** large, round and cover much of the 'face'

- **Short antennae**, often hard to see

- **Body shape** usually 'stout' with less obvious 'waist'

- **Wings** one pair only, usually longer than body. Often held out at 45° angle at rest

- **Head** round, large

- **Other:** Some mimic bees & wasps.



* With at least 7,000 species of flies in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

WASP

Look for:

- **Body shape** often long and slim, with distinct 'waist'. Legs often dangle in flight.

- **Eyes** long, oval-shaped, at side of head, sometimes with a 'notch' (emarginate)

- **Long antennae**

- **Wings** usually long and thin, generally shorter than the body (2 pairs)

- **Head** triangular or tear-shaped

- **Other:** some with visible ovipositor.



* With at least 12,000 species of wasps in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

BUTTERFLY

Look for:



- **Wings** held high above body (tent shape)
- **Antennae** with a knob at end
- Typically **brighter colours**
- Generally **fly during the day**

MOTH

Look for:



- **Wings** held flat along body
- **Antennae** simple or feathery, ending in a fine point
- Typically **dull or iridescent colours**
- Generally **fly at night**

* With more than 20,000 species of butterflies and moths in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

European honey bee

Look for:



- General **'bee' characteristics**
- **Pollen** collected on back legs
- **Colours vary** from golden to near black, and with light to distinctive stripes.
- **Hairy appearance.** Black eyes. Larger than most native bees. Common. Buzz.

Blue-banded bee

Look for:



- General **'bee' characteristics**
- **Stripes typically blue** (but can be lighter or orange) on **black abdomen.**
- **Pollen** collected on back legs
- **Hairy appearance.** Rounder body, smaller than honey bees.

BEETLE

Look for:



- Often **round to oval** body shape
- **Hard forewings** (elytra) with **hindwings often hidden** (used for flying)
- **Antennae visible**, but varying lengths & shapes
- **Chewing mouthparts**
- Typically **short flights**
- Huge variety of colors, sizes

* With more than 20,000 species of beetles in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

Ladybird beetle

Look for:



- **Domed body shape**
- **Short legs**
- **Short, clubbed antennae**
- **Variety of colours and patterns**

Hover fly

Look for:



- **'Hovering'** flight above plants
- **Large round eyes** covering much of the face, small antennae
- **Usually yellow and black**, but colors, patterns and size vary between species
- **Not hairy.** Slim legs. Flat abdomen when viewed side-on.

European wasp

Look for:



- **Stocky shape, ~15mm long**
- **Yellow with black markings**
- **Not hairy. Black antennae.** Yellow legs.

Other insects

If you see other insects while watching flowers, note them too. You can also include comments or photos with your count.

