

### 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

often black

Wings often on back at rest and

shorter than the body (2 pairs)

• Eyes long, oval, at side of 'face',

- 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.



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.

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

# **BUTTERFLY**

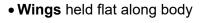
Look for:



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

# **MOTH**

Look for:

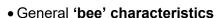




- Antennae simple or feathery, ending in a fine point
- Typically dull or iridescent colours
- Generally fly at night
- \* With more than 20,000 species of butterflies and moths in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

# **European honey bee**

Look for:





- 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**

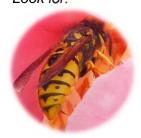
Look for:



- '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.



