

Devon Beekeepers need your help as they prepare for Action against the Asian Hornet

Devon Beekeepers' Asian Hornet Action Teams (AHATs) are responding once again to help stem the threat from the Asian hornet which has been sweeping through Europe since 2004 and most recently the Channel Islands.

The Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is native to Asia. It is believed that it was accidentally imported into Southern France from China around 2004 and has spread rapidly through France and into neighbouring countries.

Tiverton Beekeepers branch (TBKA) will be joining with similar AHAT teams throughout the UK for another National Asian Hornet Watch Week running from

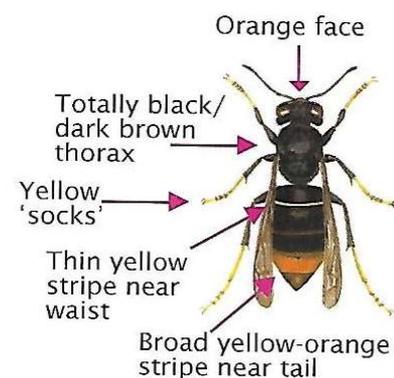
7th - 13th September 2020.

AHAT's are encouraging members of the public to be on the alert for Asian Hornets until the end of October. An excellent place to look out for them is on Ivy, coming into flower over the next few weeks, or fallen fruit and your garden.

Members of the public can download the **free Asian Hornet Watch App** on their smartphone to assist with identification and quick submission of any reports.

TBKA AHAT Coordinator, Gavin Nuttall-Owen, informs that the Asian hornet is a threat to all pollinators not just honey bees. The following characteristics are useful for an accurate identification:

- smaller than our native European hornet
- 25-30mm head to tail,
- orange face
- thorax dark brown or black and velvety
- a dark abdomen with the 4th segment / band being yellow orange.
- bright yellow lower legs.
- doesn't fly at night, unlike our native European hornet (*Vespa crabro*),



The Asian or yellow-legged hornet, *Vespa velutina*

Up to 25mm for a worker, up to 30mm for a queen

PLEASE REPORT THIS INSECT

News from Devon Asian Hornet Action Team

The public should be aware that whilst the Asian Hornets are not ordinarily aggressive, they are advised that they should not **under any circumstances approach a nest**. If they are disturbed, they will actively defend their nests.

Malcolm Crook, TBKA Chair, explains that generally nests are found high in trees but they are now starting to be found low down in garden shrubs, undergrowth, and roadside banks. Bee Inspectors found one in a shrub outside a dining room window of a house. Blundering into such nests without protection has led to a number of fatalities on the continent from adverse reactions to the insect's venom from multiple stings.

Thwarting its establishment here in the UK is crucial to protect our native pollinators, UK flora, fruit and other insect pollinated crop production

For this reason, we are asking everyone, to learn how to identify this non-native species from the other flying insects we usually see at this time of year.

The Asian Hornet Watch week will run from the **7th to 13th September 2020** and AHAT members are asking the public to be attentive and to report any sightings

See it, Snap it, Send it

- by email at alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk or https://www.brc.ac.uk/risc/alert.php?species=asian_hornet
Action can only be taken if photographic or physical evidence is provided.
- The Asian Hornet Watch App can help you report a sighting
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.ceh.hornets&hl=en_GB or <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/asian-hornet-watch/id1161238813>

You can contact the **TBKA AHAT directly**: ahat@tivertonbeekeepers.uk and they will be pleased to help you with identification and also advise on the reporting procedure

For more information:

- [Non-Native Species Secretariat \(NNS\)](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet)
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet> or
Tiverton Beekeepers <https://tivertonbeekeepers.uk/>.

Editors: PLEASE NOTE

Please use any of the photos shown below **to ensure** that the correct insect is published.



Asian Hornet feeding on Ivy

Picture from Dungeness Bird Observatory



Picture from BBKA



Picture from BBKA



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