

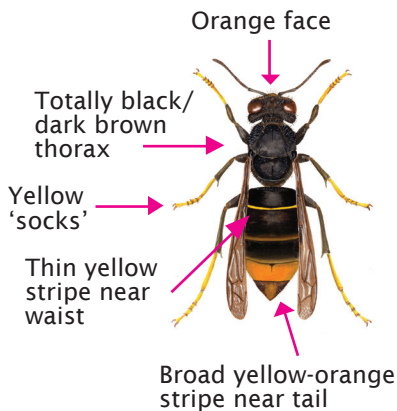
Be Alert for Asian hornets!

Asian or yellow-legged hornets (scientific name *Vespa velutina*) were accidentally introduced into France in around 2004. Now they have spread through much of Western Europe. They are serious predators of honey bees, and also attack bumblebees, solitary bees and other insects.

They defend their nests aggressively and will attack anyone who gets too close: **never approach a nest**. Since 2016, there have been sightings of the Asian hornet in the UK, and a few nests have been found.

Asian hornet

actual size



Asian hornets are generally smaller (25-30 mm head to tail) than our native hornet, the European hornet (*Vespa crabro*), which is 30-35 mm head to tail (but can seem much bigger!). They are easy to distinguish because Asian hornets are mostly dark brown/black, with yellow 'socks' and an orange-yellow band near the tail. Native hornets look like very large wasps, with brown legs and bright yellow and black/brown markings. Native hornets fly both night and day, while Asian hornets fly only during the day.

**If you see this insect
PLEASE REPORT IT!**



Asian hornet
REPORT



Native hornet
do not report

The best way to report the Asian hornet is by using the app: **'Asian Hornet Watch'**, or you can send photos and location details to: **alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk**

For identification help and advice in your area, go to www.bbka.org.uk (British Beekeepers' Association), hover over **Asian Hornet** and choose **Asian Hornet Action Team map** from the dropdown menu. Click on a pin on the map for local contact details.