

# EUROPEAN HONEYBEE

HYMENOPTERA: APIDAE

*Apis mellifera*



**Did you know?** There are many levels of sociality in insects, such as solitary (living alone), subsocial (living in a shared nest site) and eusocial (living in a community colony)! The Order Hymenoptera has representatives from all of them. For example, cicada killers (Crabronidae: *Sphecius speciosus*) are solitary, some mud daubers (Sphecidae) are subsocial, and honeybees are eusocial!

**Did you know?** When a honeybee colony gets too large, the insects will swarm! This is when the old queen leaves the nest, along with a large group of workers, to establish a new nest somewhere else; a young queen and the remaining workers are left to occupy the original colony.

**Did you know?** The job a honeybee worker performs is dependent upon her age! When she is young, she cares for the brood (larvae); as she gets older, she cleans the hive, then builds the comb, then guards the hive, and finally she forages.

## **Look and see!**



The broadened and flattened segment on the hind leg is called a scopa; it's used for carrying pollen!



This is a swarm of honeybees looking for a new nest site!



Credits:

Photos: patricklm35 ([inaturalist.org/people/patricklm35](https://www.inaturalist.org/people/patricklm35)), scopa; omnibug ([inaturalist.org/people/omnibug](https://www.inaturalist.org/people/omnibug)), in flight; Ricardo Rodero Henández ([inaturalist.org/people/ricardo-anapri](https://www.inaturalist.org/people/ricardo-anapri)), swarm

Facts: NC State Agriculture and Life Sciences ([genent.cals.ncsu.edu](https://genent.cals.ncsu.edu)); Animal Diversity Web ([animaldiversity.org](https://animaldiversity.org))

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