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!

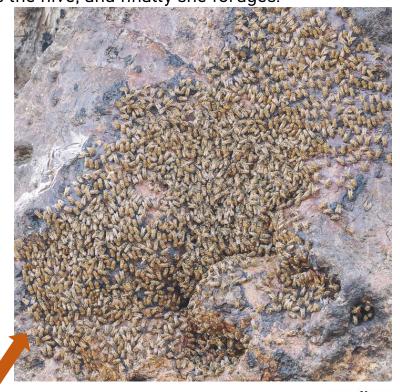
Did you know? When a honeybee colony gets too large, the insects will swarm! This is when the old queen leaves the nest, along with a large group of workers, to establish a new nest somewhere else; a young queen and the remaining workers are left to occupy the original colony.

Did you know? The job a honeybee worker performs is dependent upon her age! When she is young, she cares for the brood (<u>larvae</u>); 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), scopa; omnibug (inaturalist.org/people/omnibug), in flight; Ricardo Rodero Henández (inaturalist.org/people/ricardo-anapri), swarm

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

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