

## Wasps vs. Bees

Wasps are **carnivores**. They have streamlined bodies with slender legs made for hunting other insects. They typically have little hair and are often hairless. In general wasps have a characteristic hourglass shape.

Bees are **herbivores**. They have robust bodies with flat legs and pollen baskets made to gather floral resources. They are often covered in hair but this varies widely between species.



Flower Flies (Syrphidae)

Flower flies are **herbivores**. They have only two body segments and are often colored after bees and wasps as a form of defensive mimicry. They have much larger eyes and only two wings whereas wasps and bees have four.



## Common Bees of Eastern Ontario

### Honey Bee *Apis Mellifera* **Apidae**



- Highly social bee, castes that live in hives
- Yellow to brown thorax with a striped amber and brown abdomen
- Thorax with dense yellow hairs
- Medium sized bees at 15 mm \*size based on abdomen to head\*

### Bumble Bee *Bombus sp.* **Apidae**



- Social bees that live in colonies
- Often colored a bright yellow and black, some species can have red, brown or white hairs
- Very hairy bees, hair most thick on the thorax
- Large sized bees; Size ranges from 10-15 mm for workers and up to 23 mm for queens

### Small Carpenter Bee *Ceratina sp.* **Apidae**



- Solitary bees that can live in aggregations, nest in hollow stems and dead wood
- Dark blue in color with a characteristic white mark on the clypeus
- Sparsely covered in hair
- Smaller sized bees at 5-8 mm; The abdomen is elongated

Wasp-like Bees *Nomada* sp. **Apidae**



- Kleptoparasites with varying levels of sociality, mainly solitary
- Range of color, wasp-like patterns of black and yellow stripes, body often red or brown
- Very little hair as they do not collect pollen; poor pollinators
- Medium sized bees; 8-11 mm females and 7-9 mm males

Mining Bee *Andrena* sp. **Andrenidae**



- Solitary ground nesting bees; Often found in aggregations
- Thorax with orange hairs (f) or white (m); Abdomen black
- Hairy bees, long hairs and facial fovea (f), short hairs and mustache-like hairs(m)
- Medium to large size; 10-17mm females and 8-12 mm males

Metallic Sweat Bees *Augochlorella* sp., *Agapostemon* sp., *Augochlora* sp. **Halictidae**



- Varying levels of sociality; Solitary to eusocial
- Metallic green in color, can appear blue
- Sparsely covered in hair, Agapostemon with metasomal bands
- Small to medium sized bees Aga; 7-14 mm Aug; 5-7 mm

Sweat Bees *Lasioglossum* sp, *Halictus* sp. **Halictidae**



- Varying levels of sociality, mainly solitary aggregations
- Black to dark blue, metallic sheen
- Sparsely covered in hair, distinct metasomal banding (apical vs basal)\*
- Small to medium sized bees at 5-10 mm

Plasterer Bees *Colletes*, *Hylaeus* sp. Megachilide **Colletidae**



- Two bee families; Mainly solitary, Colletes will nest in aggregations
- C; Orange thorax hairs, bands on abdomen. H; Black with face markings
- C; Dense hairs on thorax H; Little to no hair, wasp-like
- C; Medium sized bees at 10-15 mm H; Small sized bees at 5-7 mm

Mason Bees *Osmia lignnaria*, *Osmia ribifloris* **Megachilidae**



- Solitary bees that often live in aggregations
- Dark blue or green, metallic
- Very round shape with dense hairs on the clypeus and underside of abdomen
- Small sized bees at 5-7 mm

Leaf-cutter Bees *Megachile* sp. **Megachilidae**



- Solitary bees that build nests out of leaves
- Orange and brown hairs on thorax, black abdomen with white stripes, orange underneath
- Honey bee-like shape, dense hair on thorax, underside of abdomen and metasomal bands
- Medium sized bee at 6-15 mm \*35 mm\*