

Université de Mons Wild Bees of North Lebanon



What is a bee?

A bee is a flying insect from the order Hymenoptera that has two pairs of wings. There are over 20,000 species of bees around the world; the most known is the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) which is domesticated.

Do all bees make honey?

Most wild bees prepare food for their larvae from pollen and nectar that they shape like a dough. Some wild bees like the Bumblebees also make honey, but they stock very small amounts that cannot be collected. Only honeybees make large amounts of honey that can be harvested.

So why are they important?

The most important service they provide is pollination. They are pollinators of most of our fruits and vegetables. Furthermore, they are necessary for the reproduction of

Do all bees sting?

No. Only females of larger species have painful stings, and only when provoked. There are also smaller bees that have non painful stings, and many species do not sting at all.

What do they eat?

Bees are florivores, which means they feed on flowers. Males and females forage to eat nectar whereas females also collect pollen to feed their larvae. They have a specialized pollen collecting brush that can be located on their hind legs or lower abdomen.

And how long do they live?

Most wild bees are short lived. The adult life span is a few weeks during which the female spends most of her time building nests and preparing food reserves for her larvae. After metamorphosis and a more or less prolonged resting period, the young adults emerge, mate, and the cycle restarts.

Are all bees social?

No. Most bees are solitary, some are social like Bumblebees who live in colonies comparable to honeybees. Others are parasitic and lay their eggs in other bee nests.

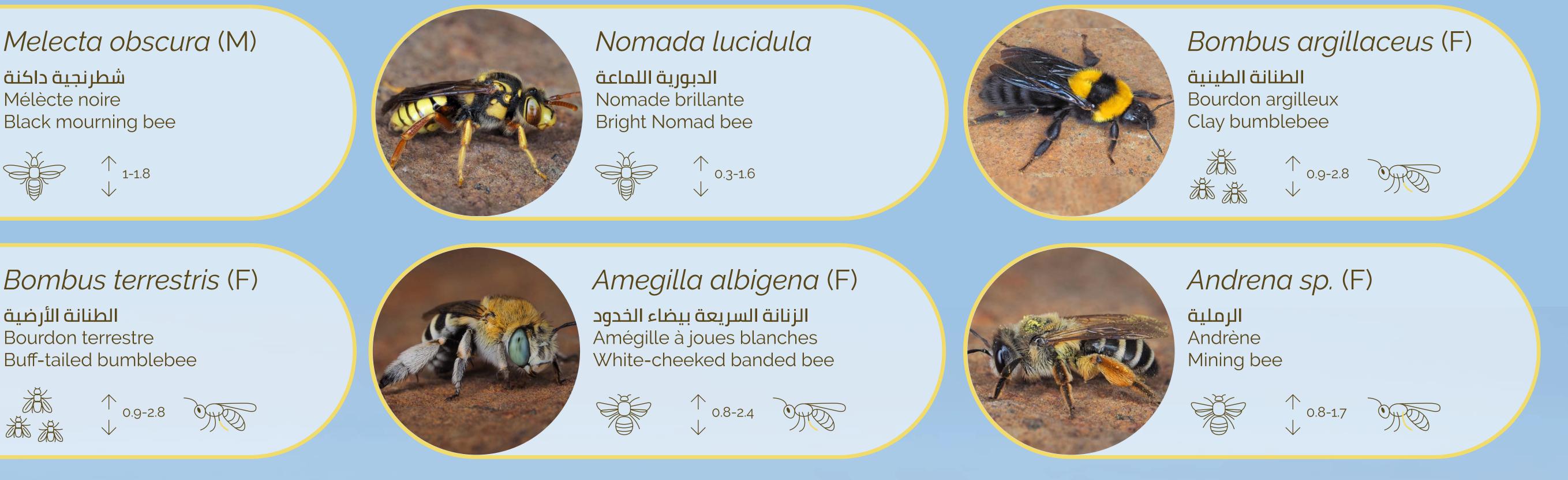
Where and when to find them?

Bees can often be found flying between flowers, especially on sunny days. They are most frequent in spring and early summer. In Lebanon, there are also species that fly during fall and winter.

How can I protect them?

Wild bees are great guests to have in your garden. To encourage them we can use less pesticides and provide nesting places such as unturned soil, wall cavities, or man-made insect hotels. Lebanon is famous for high wild flowers diversity, allowing wild flowers to grow undisturbed is a simple and effective way of conserving wild bees and honeybees. In fact, wild bees and honeybees share most of their food plants.

large numbers of wild plants, making them a vital element in nature.





Bombus terrestris (F)

الطنانة الأرضية Bourdon terrestre Buff-tailed bumblebee

Anthophora aestivalis (F)

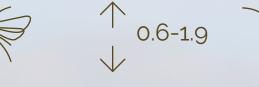




Anthidium sp. (F) الشوكية

Anthidie Wool carder bee

قاردة الجدران



Mégachile des murailles

Black Mud Dauber Bee

Chalicodoma parietina (F)







الزنانة الصيفية Anthophore estivale Summer flower bee



1-1.9



Eucera sp. (M)

Long-horned Bee

↑ 0.8-1.7



زنانة القتاد Anthophore de l'Astragale Milkvetch flower bee

1-1.9

Habropoda hakkariensis (M)

زنانة هكارى Habropode d'Hakkari Hakkari digger bee



1-1.8



Habropoda tarsata (F) زنانة عريضة الأرجل Habropode à gros tarses

1.1-2

Large-legged digger bee







Habropoda zonatula (M)

زنانة مقلمة Habropode bandée Banded digger bee

1-1.8



N

G m

U

Megachile sp. (M)

القارضة Mégachile Leaf cutter bee



0.9-1.7





Xylocopa olivieri (M)

Xylocopa parviceps (M)

نقار أوليفيه Xylocope d'Olivier Olivier's carpenter bee

1.6-2







Xylocopa valga (M)

2-2.7

نقار معكوس الأرجل Xylocope panarde Splayfooted carpenter bee



نقار صغير الرأس Xylocope à petite tête Small-headed carpenter bee



SOCIALITY	POLLEN LOAD	SEX
Parasitic	Hind leg Lower half	M Male F Female
Social	Full hind leg	SIZE
Solitary	Lower abdomen	$\stackrel{ riangle}{ ou}$ Length (cr

Acknowledgements

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