

Discover the unknown pollinators

And learn more about the known ones!

Busy workers

Bees, wasps, and bumblebees (Hymenopterans)

Bees are vital for the **reproduction of many plants**, but while honeybees get most of the attention, bumblebees and wasps also play key roles. **Bumblebees** are especially effective due to their ability to **buzz pollinate**, and **wasps**, although **less efficient** because they have fewer body hairs, still contribute significantly to pollination.

Nature's tiny titans

Beetles (Coleopterans)

Some beetles are excellent pollinators, gathering **pollen while feeding** on flowers. They are part of a highly abundant group, with around **375,000 known species**, and their activity is vital for the **reproduction of many plants**, especially those with flowers that produce large quantities of pollen.

The buzzworthy group

Flies (Dipterans)

Despite their reputation, many flies play a crucial **role in pollination**. Some species, for example, are known to visit at least **72% of global crop species** and over **70% of animal-pollinated wildflower species** to obtain nectar and pollen for food.

Much more than beautiful wings

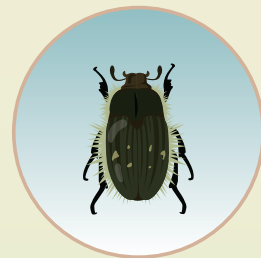
Butterflies and moths (Lepidopterans)

Although less specialised than other insects, the abundance of butterflies and moths in wildflower meadows makes them important **daytime pollinators**. Nocturnal moths, on the other hand, prefer pale, tubular flowers, pollinating them while **seeking nectar at night**.



Apis mellifera

The European honey bees are the **most common** of the 7-12 species of honey bees **worldwide**. However, habitat loss...and pesticides have drastically **reduced their populations** in recent decades.



Tropinota squalida

Found primarily in **France, Italy, Greece, Portugal, and North Africa**, these beetles are attracted to flowers by their **sweet aroma** and **vibrant colors**. They are important pollinators in their habitats but face threats from **pesticide use** and **habitat loss**.



Bombylius linnaeus

Commonly known as bee flies, these species are **found worldwide**. They develop by parasitising the nests of solitary bees, where their larvae feed on stored food. Despite this **parasitic behaviour**, adult bee flies are **important pollinators**, visiting a variety of flowers for nectar.



Vanessa cardui

The painted lady butterfly annually **recolonises Europe from Africa**, with many individuals flying back to Africa each autumn to reproduce. They are **generalist pollinators** and are crucial for maintaining the health of various ecosystems along their **migratory routes**.



Bombus terrestris

One of the **most common bumblebees in Europe**. They are excellent pollinators, essential for crops like **tomatoes and berries**. However, they face threats from extreme weather, pesticides and urbanization.



Clytus arietis

The wasp beetle plays a crucial role **in forest ecosystems**, inhabiting areas rich in oak, chestnut, and beech trees. They **mimic wasps** in appearance, which helps deter predators, but their populations are at risk from **deforestation** and **habitat fragmentation**.



Mesembrina meridiana

These flies are active from late April to late October and are commonly found in **cattle-rearing areas**, especially in cattle dung. While they may seem unpleasant, they play a role in **pollinating flowers** in their habitats.



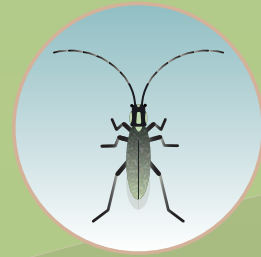
Vanessa atalanta

Known as the red admirals, they are seen arriving in **Southern Europe** from central and Northern parts of the continent, especially in autumn. They are vital pollinators for many **wildflowers and garden plants**.



Xylocopa violacea

Common in **southern Europe** and known for pollinating **fruit trees** in spring, they thrive in dry, warm areas with ample wood. While they are effective pollinators, **habitat loss** and **competition for nesting sites** pose significant threats to their populations.



Agapanthia asphodeli

This species is part of a group that includes some of the most **striking beetles**, often targeted by collectors. They are typically found in **Mediterranean regions** and are attracted to **asphodel plants**, which they pollinate. The **collection** and **habitat destruction** are major threats to their survival.



Eristalis tenax

Also known as the drone fly, *Eristalis tenax* is **native to Europe** but has spread to North America. They are often **mistaken for honeybees** due to their resemblance. These flies are **excellent pollinators**, frequenting flowers for nectar and contributing to the pollination process.



Macroglossum stellatarum

The hummingbird hawkmoth prefers **nectar-rich flowers with long, long narrow flowers**, which reduces competition from other insects. They are remarkable for their **hovering flight**, similar to that of hummingbirds, and play a important role in pollinating various plant species.