

Learning in the Leaves

Identification- *Apis mellifera* – Honey Bee



Distinguishing Features

- Up to 15mm,
- 1 pair of wings
- 6 legs
- Fur on and behind the head.
- 2 antenna.
- 2 segments + head.
- Orange/yellow faint striped on the back segment.

Interesting Facts

- Honeybees are social bees, living in colonies which can number up to 50,000 individuals. They originally came from Asia, but are now well established in the UK countryside. Wild colonies will sometimes build their nests in buildings, but more usually in hollow trees. These wild bees are no more dangerous than those kept in domestic hives.
- When a colony gets too crowded groups of honeybees can fly off in a swarm to form a new nest site. Unlike wasp colonies, which die off in late autumn, part of the honey bee colony can survive through the winter by feeding on stored honey. The queen can live up to five years, while the majority of the workers live for just a few weeks.
- [information collated from the UK Safari Website: www.uksafari.com]