



Asian Hornet

Vespa velutina

An aggressive and effective predator



ABOUT

Asian hornets are native to eastern Asia, India and Nepal and are primarily found in mountainous areas.

Asian hornets are not present in Australia. Asian hornets have a direct impact on honey bee colonies by killing honey bees and their brood.

The Asian hornet has a very distinctive appearance. Worker/forager hornets are 25mm in length with the queen Asian hornet measuring between 30-35mm in length.

The Asian hornet has a black/dark brown body with each abdominal segment being separated by a fine yellow band. The hornet can be easily recognised due to its distinctive yellow-orange colour which appears on its face, legs and the fourth abdominal segment.

Should Asian hornets establish a presence in Australia, European honey bee colonies could be catastrophically impacted.

Asian hornets may also have an indirect impact on the health of honey bee hives as their predatory activities around hives cause honey bees to spend more time and energy defending the colony against constant attacks.

European honey bee colonies dealing with constant threats of attack often suffer from population decline due to the unavailability of worker bees to forage for food and bees to nurture young brood.

If you suspect you have found an Asian hornet you must report it IMMEDIATELY.



Above: Asian hornet. Image: Hall of Lebarthe-Inard, Lebarthe-inard.fr. Top Left: Male *Vespa velutina*. Image: Gilles San Martin, Flickr

TAKE ACTION

If you see or suspect the presence of Asian hornets in Australia, report the pest IMMEDIATELY.

CONTACT

Report all suspect sightings to: Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scan the QR Code or click here for more information about Asian hornets from the BeeAware website.



Early detection is essential to ensure any exotic bees entering Australia are contained