



Giant Honey Bees

Apis dorsata, *A. laboriosa*

The 'giants' of the honey bee species



ABOUT

Giant honey bees are the largest of the honey bee species. The giant honey bee, *Apis dorsata*, is commonly located throughout south-east Asia including regions in India, China and as far south as Indonesia and Malaysia.

The giant honey bee, *Apis dorsata*, is very large in size with the species measuring between 17-20mm in length. Their appearance is similar to the European honey bee, with golden, black and pale bands on the abdomen.

This species of honey bee builds large, single comb colonies measuring up to 1.5m in width and 1m in depth. Giant honey bee colonies will often contain approximately 60,000 bees.

Giant honey bees are known across the world for building nests high in the tree's canopy or on high peaks of mountains with overhanging rocks or cliffs, with locals going to extreme lengths to rob/harvest the honey from these colonies.

Similar to other exotic bee species, the giant honey bee presents a major risk to the Australian honey bee industry if it was to become established in Australia.

Giant honey bee species are parasitised by *Tropilaelaps* mites. Some variants of this mite are capable of infesting European honey bees.

Should *Tropilaelaps* mites parasitise in Australian European honey bee colonies, beekeepers can anticipate rapid colony decline and possible death of the colony.

Giant honey bees and parasitic mites such as *Tropilaelaps* mites are not currently in Australia. All suspect honey bees and insects should be reported IMMEDIATELY.



Above: Giant honey bee. Image: Zachary Huang BeeAware.org.au. Top Left: Giant honey bee nest. Image: Dani Jump, beesunlimited.com, BeeAware.org.au

TAKE ACTION

If you see or suspect the presence of Giant honey bees 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 Giant honey bees from the BeeAware website.



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