



Large Hive Beetle

Oplostomus fuliginus

A predator of honey bee brood



ABOUT

The large hive beetle is native to regions of Africa and is a pest of honey bee brood. The beetle measures between 20-23mm in length with a shiny black body.

Little is known about the lifecycle and biology of these exotic scarab pests of honey bees. Unlike similar beetle pests that have originated from Africa (such as the small hive beetle), the large hive beetle is unable to reproduce inside the honey bee colony.

Reports from scientists suggest that the large hive beetle appears to require decomposing plant material or herbivore faeces for reproduction.

The large hive beetle also has a dietary preference to consume honey bee brood instead of other hive food sources such as honey and pollen.

Due to its size and ability to consume honey bee brood quickly, the feeding behaviour of the large hive beetle can quickly destroy the comb structure of a honey bee colony.

The large hive beetle is considerably larger than a European honey bee and, in its continent of origin, beekeepers have opted to reduce the size of hive entrances which in turn restricts the access of the beetles into the hive.

The large hive beetle is currently not present in Australia. There are strict quarantine measures in place to protect Australia from this exotic pest.

Beekeepers and members of the public are strongly encouraged to report all suspect sightings of the large hive beetle to Biosecurity Queensland or the Exotic Pest Hotline.



Above: Large hive beetle. Image: Dr Ben Oldroyd, BeeAware.org.au. Top Right: Image: Large hive beetle with 2mm scale. Image: Simon Hinkley and Ken Walker, PADIL, BeeAware.org.au.

TAKE ACTION

If you see or suspect the presence of large hive beetle in Australia, report the pest IMMEDIATELY.

CONTACT

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scan the QR Code or click here for more information about large hive beetle from the BeeAware website.



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