

Use the statements below to help distinguish between the top row of insects (bees, wasps and flies). All statements refer to the groups shown beneath them.

More hairy

No hairs or less obviously hairy

Pollen baskets visible on hind legs or under abdomen

No pollen basket

Antennae have 'elbow'

Antennae straight

Very short antennae

Eyes on side of head wider apart so not covering it all

Large eyes closer together covering head.

Two pairs of wings (Wasp has very small hind wings)

One pair of wings

### Bees

- Very hairy,
- Rounded body



Red-tailed bumblebee  
(*Bombus lapidaries*)

### Bumblebee

- Lower legs broad and flattened
- Colour varies from bright orange striped to nearly all black
- Eye are hairy and hard to see



Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*)

### Honeybee

- Hairy – but less than bumblebees
- More elongated shape
- Colours more dull



Male  
Female  
Tawny mining bee (*Adrena fulva*)

### Solitary bee

### Wasps

- Some wasps are v small & dark wasps – look for the narrow waist
- Head bulkier and more rectangular than bees



Common wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*)

### Wasp

### Flies

- Usually shiny or reflective
- Very fast hovering flight



Hoverfly (*Eristalis tenax*)

### Hoverfly

You may see many species of fly - you just need to separate hoverflies from the rest.



Flesh fly (*Sarcophaga carnaria*)

### Other flies

These groups are easier to distinguish from one another. Use the key features in each box to help identify them

### Beetles

– larger than 3mm



Wasp beetle  
(*Clytus arietis*)



Two-spot ladybird  
(*Adalia bipunctata*)

Hard wing cases joining with a straight line down the middle of the insect

### Small insects

– less than 3mm



Aphid (*Aphidoidea*)



Pollen beetle  
(*Meligethes aenus*)

### Butterflies & moths

– less than 3mm



Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)



Silver Y moth  
(*Autographa gamma*)



Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

### Other insects



Green shield bug (*Palomena prasina*)

For e.g. True bugs where wings are partially hard and leathery and part clear membrane