

What is a bee?

A bee is a flying insect from the order Hymenoptera that has two pairs of wings. There are over 20,000 species of bees around the world; the most known is the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) which is domesticated.

Do all bees make honey?

Most wild bees prepare food for their larvae from pollen and nectar that they shape like a dough. Some wild bees like the Bumblebees also make honey, but they stock very small amounts that cannot be collected. Only honeybees make large amounts of honey that can be harvested.

So why are they important?

The most important service they provide is pollination. They are pollinators of most of our fruits and vegetables. Furthermore, they are necessary for the reproduction of large numbers of wild plants, making them a vital element in nature.

Do all bees sting?

No. Only females of larger species have painful stings, and only when provoked. There are also smaller bees that have non painful stings, and many species do not sting at all.

What do they eat?

Bees are florivores, which means they feed on flowers. Males and females forage to eat nectar whereas females also collect pollen to feed their larvae. They have a specialized pollen collecting brush that can be located on their hind legs or lower abdomen.

Where and when to find them?

Bees can often be found flying between flowers, especially on sunny days. They are most frequent in spring and early summer. In Lebanon, there are also species that fly during fall and winter.

And how long do they live?

Most wild bees are short lived. The adult life span is a few weeks during which the female spends most of her time building nests and preparing food reserves for her larvae. After metamorphosis and a more or less prolonged resting period, the young adults emerge, mate, and the cycle restarts.

Are all bees social?

No. Most bees are solitary, some are social like Bumblebees who live in colonies comparable to honeybees. Others are parasitic and lay their eggs in other bee nests.

How can I protect them?

Wild bees are great guests to have in your garden. To encourage them we can use less pesticides and provide nesting places such as unturned soil, wall cavities, or man-made insect hotels. Lebanon is famous for high wild flowers diversity, allowing wild flowers to grow undisturbed is a simple and effective way of conserving wild bees and honeybees. In fact, wild bees and honeybees share most of their food plants.



Melecta obscura (M)
شطرنجية داكنة
Mélècte noire
Black mourning bee

↑ 1-1.8
↓



Nomada lucidula
الدبورية اللامعة
Nomade brillante
Bright Nomad bee

↑ 0.3-1.6
↓



Bombus argillaceus (F)
الطنانة الطينية
Bourdon argilleux
Clay bumblebee

↑ 0.9-2.8
↓



Bombus terrestris (F)
الطنانة الأرضية
Bourdon terrestre
Buff-tailed bumblebee

↑ 0.9-2.8
↓



Amegilla albigena (F)
الزنانة السريعة بيضاء الخدود
Amégille à joues blanches
White-cheeked banded bee

↑ 0.8-2.4
↓



Andrena sp. (F)
الرميلية
Andrène
Mining bee

↑ 0.8-1.7
↓



Anthidium sp. (F)
الشوكية
Anthidie
Wool carder bee

↑ 0.6-1.9
↓



Anthophora aestivalis (F)
الزنانة الصيفية
Anthophore estivale
Summer flower bee

↑ 1-1.9
↓



Anthophora atroalba (M)
زنانة القتاد
Anthophore de l'Astragale
Milkvetch flower bee

↑ 1-1.9
↓



Chalicodoma parietina (F)
قارعة الجدران
Mégachile des murailles
Black Mud Dauber Bee

↑ 1.1-2
↓



Eucera sp. (M)
القزناء
Eucère
Long-horned Bee

↑ 0.8-1.7
↓



Habropoda hakkariensis (M)
زنانة هكاري
Habropode d'Hakkari
Hakkari digger bee

↑ 1-1.8
↓



Habropoda tarsata (F)
زنانة عريضة الأرجل
Habropode à gros tarse
Large-legged digger bee

↑ 1-1.8
↓



Habropoda zonatula (M)
زنانة مقلمة
Habropode bandée
Banded digger bee

↑ 1-1.8
↓



Megachile sp. (M)
القارضة
Mégachile
Leaf cutter bee

↑ 0.9-1.7
↓



Osmia sp.
أوسميا
Osmie
Mason bee

↑ 0.8-1.6
↓



Xylocopa olivieri (M)
نقار أوليفيه
Xylocope d'Olivier
Olivier's carpenter bee

↑ 1.6-2
↓



Xylocopa parviceps (M)
نقار صغير الرأس
Xylocope à petite tête
Small-headed carpenter bee

↑ 1.4-1.7
↓

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Xylocopa valga (M)
نقار معكوس الأرجل
Xylocope panarde
Splayfooted carpenter bee

↑ 2-2.7
↓

LEGEND	SOCIALITY	POLLEN LOAD	SEX
	Parasitic	Hind leg Lower half	M Male
	Social	Full hind leg	F Female
	Solitary	Lower abdomen	SIZE
			↑ Length (cm) ↓