

## Mini guide to

# pollinating insects

Vertical bars = 10 mm (head and body length) — Horizontal bars = 10 mm (wingspan)



**White banded digger bee**

*Amegilla quadrifasciata*

Widespread. Females make their nest by digging in the ground. They are solitary bees, carrying out all tasks

alone (eg. digging underground burrows and providing food for their offspring).

**Honey bee**

*Apis mellifera (cypria)*

Widespread throughout the world. One of the first insects to be domesticated, primarily by beekeepers for honey production and pollination activities.



**Buff-tailed bumblebee**

*Bombus terrestris*

Widespread and numerous in Europe. Large and hairy with two dark yellow bands and buffish-white tail. Colonies are also produced in captivity and used by commercial tomato and other fruit growers around the world to increase pollination.

Illustrations © Chris Shields

**Marmalade hoverfly**

*Episyrphus balteatus*

Widespread. Orange with a distinctive double band.

Adults visit a wide range of flowers to feed on nectar while the larvae, like some other hoverflies, feed on aphids.



**Silver Y moth**

*Autographa gamma*

This moth can be found visiting many different types of flowers by day and night and so, along with many other moth species, is considered an important pollinator.



**Saltmarsh mosquito**

*Aedes detritus*

Breeds in saltmarshes. Males (pictured) feed on flowers and can pollinate them. They have impressive antennae. Females bite, mostly at dusk and dawn.



**Clouded yellow butterfly**

*Colias croceus*

Common in Cyprus throughout most of the year except at the height of summer. Its caterpillars feed on plants in the pea family, such as clovers.



This mini-guide shows some common pollinating insects found across Cyprus.  
You can see these and many others by watching as they visit flowers.

- Many wild and cultivated plants depend on insects to move pollen from one flower to another, in order to produce seeds or fruits.
- The economic value of insect pollination globally in 2012 was estimated to be \$361 billion. Common threats to pollinators are habitat loss, change in weather patterns due to climate change, use of chemicals (in agriculture, gardening and public health) and light pollution.
- There are concerns that numbers of pollinating insects such as bees, flies, butterflies and moths are declining globally, but there is a need for more data to be able to track changes in abundance around the world including Cyprus.

The protocol for PoMS-Ký Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) developed through the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS), has been modified and adapted for use in Cyprus for the Researching Invasive Species in Kýpros (RIS-Ký) project. It will allow us to study and collect data on pollinating insects from the entire island of Cyprus, including the Sovereign Base Areas. We are particularly interested in increasing our understanding of the effects of non-native compared to native plants on these important insects.

If you want to be part and contribute to the Pollinator Monitoring Scheme of Kýpros please visit **[www.ris-ky.info/poms-ky](http://www.ris-ky.info/poms-ky)**



[www.facebook.com/groups/RISKYCYPUS](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RISKYCYPUS)



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