

POLLINATING INSECTS

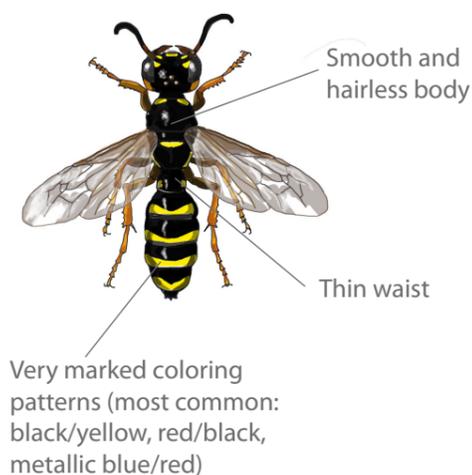
WASPS

Wasps are a diverse group of insects with different forms of life. Some are eusocial and live in colonies, but most are solitary species. There are many families and subgroups of wasps in the world. In the Mediterranean region, the most important are the *cuckoo wasps* (Chrysididae), the *spider wasps* (Pompilidae), *Scoliidae*, *Sphecidae*, and the *vespids* (Vespidae).

IDENTIFY WASPS IN THE FIELD

- In general, wasps have a smooth body, without hair and with a thin waist, a characteristic that can serve to quickly differentiate them from bees.
- The shape and segmentation of the abdomen and the color patterns are important traits in differentiating wasp species.

WASP ANATOMY SIMPLIFIED



LIFE 4 POLLINATORS

The aim of the project is to improve pollinator conservation by creating a virtuous circle leading to a progressive change in practices across the Mediterranean region.

In Mediterranean countries (Spain, Italy, France and Greece) there is inadequate awareness about the role of wild pollinators and the importance of conserving their diversity. This knowledge gap is one of the main obstacles to proper planning of successful programmes to address the main drivers behind pollinator decline and ensure sustainable management and restoration of the remaining high-value pollinator habitats.

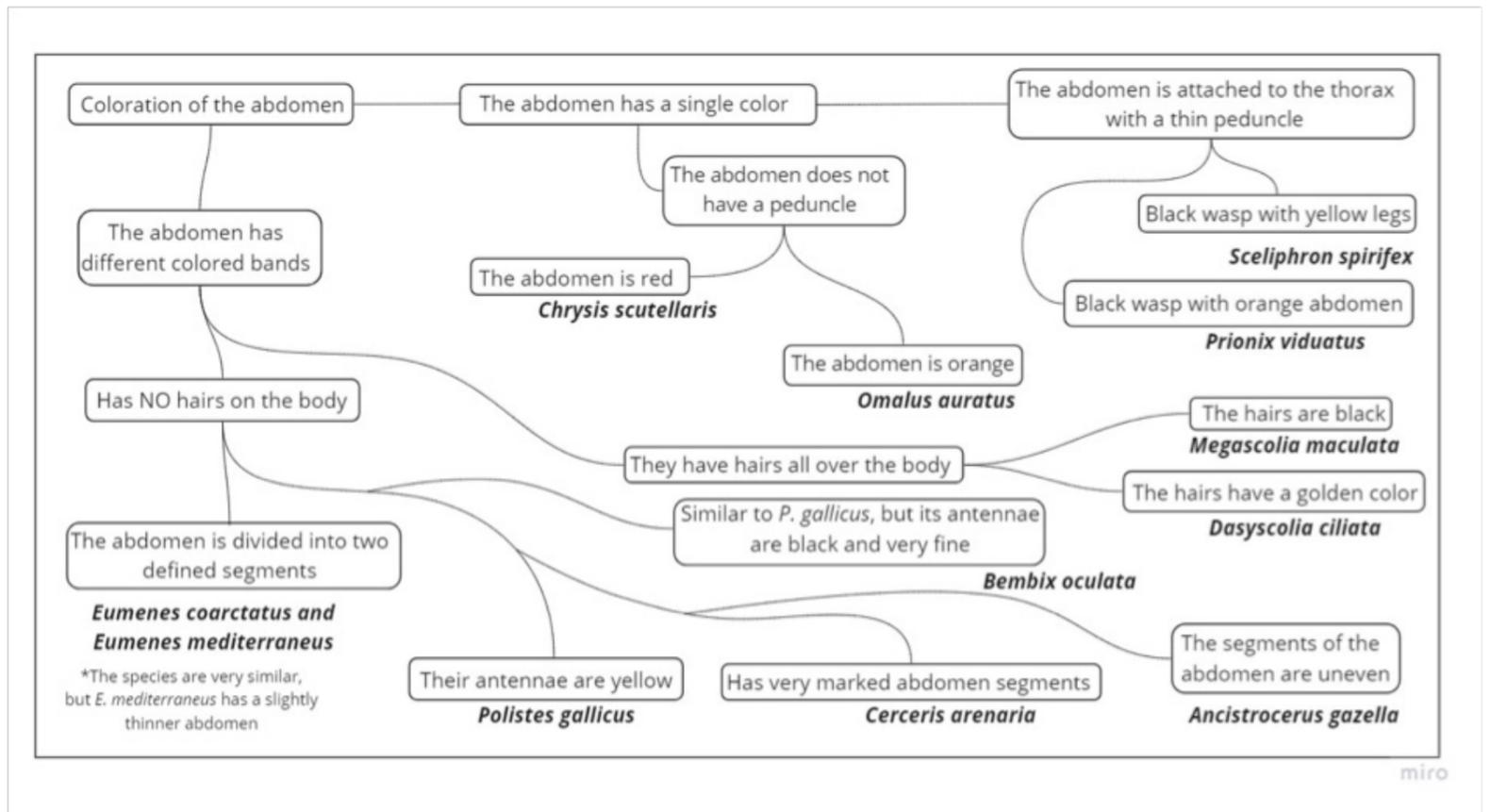


The project will contribute to a range of EU policy and legislation, including amongst others the biodiversity strategy, the pollinators initiative and biodiversity protection under the common agricultural policy.

LIFE 4 POLLINATORS
WASPS AS POLLINATORS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
FIELD GUIDE

The LIFE 4 POLLINATORS project (LIFE 18 GIE/IT/000755) has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union

IDENTIFICATION KEY



miro

WASPS

Megascolia maculata

largest wasp in Europe. It is characterized by its black color with four yellow spots on the abdomen and dark wings.

Females have yellow heads, are slightly larger and have shorter antennae than males.

DIMENSIONS: 20-40 mm

Dasyscolia ciliata

medium-sized black wasp with many golden-colored hairs distributed almost all over the body, in the abdomen in bands.

Males have more yellowish hairs and shorter antennae.

DIMENSIONS: 15-18 mm

Chrysis sp.

small wasp

greenish blue head and thorax and a red abdomen

DIMENSIONS: 6-9 mm

Pseudomalus auratus

small wasp

metallic bluish thorax and bright orange abdomen

DIMENSIONS: 3-7 mm

Prionyx sp.

Black wasp with a very thin peduncle on the abdomen, which is orange in color.

in the female the stinger is more visible.

DIMENSIONS: 20-25 mm

Sceliphron spirifex

Medium-sized wasp, black in color, with a very long yellow peduncle, as well as several bands on the legs.

in the female the stinger is more visible.

DIMENSIONS: 20-25 mm

Euodynerus sp.

Black and yellow wasp characterized by having an abdomen with uneven segments being the first one larger and broader than those at the end.

DIMENSIONS: 11-18 mm

Bembix sp.

Similar to the common wasp, it differs from this by being smaller in size and small wings in proportion to the body.

antennae are black and very fine.

DIMENSIONS: 9 - 15 mm

Cerceris sp.

Similar to *Polistes gallicus* species but it is characterized to have very marked segments of the abdomen.

DIMENSIONS: 12 - 16 mm

Polistes dominula

Very abundant wasp and known for building cellulose nests

The ends of the antennae are yellow.

DIMENSIONS: 10 - 16 mm

Eumenes sp.
illustrated species: *E. coarctatus*

The first segment of the abdomen is narrow and elongated.

DIMENSIONS: 6 - 15 mm

Eumenes mediterraneus

Same traits as *Eumenes coarctatus*, but with a thinner abdomen

DIMENSIONS: 6 - 15 mm

For more information on each group, please go to: www.life4pollinators.eu/wasps