

ASIAN HORNET - *Vespa velutina*

What is an Asian hornet?

An invasive non-native hornet, originally from Asia. It is a highly aggressive predator of our native insects, especially honey bees and other pollinators. It was accidentally introduced to France in 2004 and has been spreading further west since then now as far as Great Britain.

We wish to take steps to avoid it having a chance to establish in Northern Ireland/Ireland, so the cooperation of members of the public to report possible sightings is vital.

What does an Asian hornet look like?



Key features are the almost entirely dark abdomen, except for the 4th segment which is totally yellow (see images above) and the bright yellow leg tips. Size ranges from 17 to 35mm.

Where might I see it?

It may be seen in and around flowers, soil, timber and fruit, especially those of foreign import, as they may hide amongst them. It will actively seek out bee hives and may be seen in suburban areas or anywhere populations of bees are present.

For further ID guidance & information check out the Invasive Species Ireland website -www.invasivespeciesireland.org

Makes very large distinctive nests, secondary ones often in tall trees (image below right) but primary can be found in eaves of buildings (image below left) .



What can you do?

Report it immediately by options 1, 2 or 3

If you suspect that you have seen one, try to take a clear image to submit along with your record

1

Telephone
NIEA Non
Native Invasive
Species Team on:
028 9056 9629



2



Download the
Asian Hornet Watch
App at major App
Stores.

3

Submit a record via CEDaR online recording:
www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI