

Bournemouth Naturally

The Bournemouth Naturally project aims to build up a picture of biodiversity in Bournemouth through creation of a database of your wildlife sightings. Each month will feature a species, if you have seen it in your garden or local greenspace then please let us know.

Species of the Month: **(Late October/Early November)**

Ivy Bee *Colletes hederæ*



Ecology

The Ivy bee has only recently started appearing in the UK (first recorded in 2001) but since has spread over the south of England.

Ivy, which flowers in late September till early November, provides this bee with most of its pollen, hence the name. It is a mining bee which excavates nests on soft banks and cliffs, often in proximity to Ivy for feeding.

Identifying

The next week or two is the perfect time to look out for Ivy bees; they have been recorded in Bournemouth in the past. ID tips to remember

- Look on Ivy;
- Ivy bees are large, about the size of a honey bee;
- They are hairy;
- They have broad banding on abdomen (this can be orangey in freshly emerged individuals but then fades)
- If you get a good enough look you will see they carry pollen down their legs instead of in sacks.

They do sting so please don't get too close!

Records

If you have seen Ivy Bees in your garden or local greenspace in Bournemouth please let us know. Please contact Heather Dixon: heatherdixon@bnss.org.uk or fill in the recording form on the email attachment (also downloadable from the website) www.bnss.org.uk/bournemouth-naturally.html

For anyone signed up to online recording system Living Record there is currently a special Ivy bee survey so have a look. Any records submitted to me I will pass onto the Bees Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS)