



BWARS

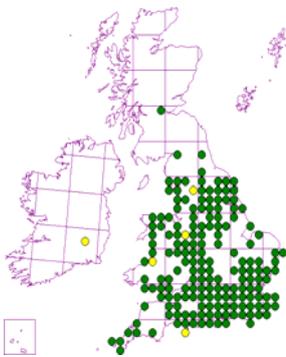
Information Sheet TAWNY MINING-BEE (*Andrena fulva*)

Stuart Roberts

- * Safe with Children and with Pets
- * Important wild pollinator of Fruit trees
- * Spectacular coloration
- * **Can you add to our knowledge?**

Featuring:

- Background information
- Distribution in UK and the world
- Habitat requirements
- Conservation



UK distribution of *Andrena fulva*

Background and Distribution

The Tawny Mining-bee (*Andrena fulva*) is one of the most distinctive and obvious of all the spring-flying solitary bee species over much of England and Wales. There is only a single confirmed Scottish record, and only old, tantalizing records from Co. Kilkenny in Ireland.

The males are very different to the females. They are much slimmer, covered in less dense orangey-brown hair and with a very pronounced tuft of white hairs on the lower face.

On continental Europe, the species is widespread and common from Britain eastwards across central Europe. It is not found in Scandinavia and is restricted in the Mediterranean region.

The bee has a single flight period each year and is on the wing from early April until early June; the males emerging well before the females. Peak activity coincides with the flowering periods of fruit trees such as Pear, Cherry and Apple.



A female of *Andrena fulva* at Blackthorn flowers



Habitat and Conservation

Andrena fulva nests are constructed in the ground, and the nest entrances are surrounded by a volcano-like mound of excavated spoil. Nests are often in loose aggregations in tended lawns, flower beds, mown banks and in sparsely vegetated field margins.

Pollen is collected from a wide range of plants including flowering trees and shrubs, weeds and garden species.

The bee is common in gardens, parks, calcareous grassland, orchards and on the edges of cropped agricultural land.

In some areas, *A. fulva* plays host to the rare and uncommon cuckoo bee *Nomada signata*.

No special conservation measures are necessary.



Male *A. fulva* at rest



Female *A. fulva* at nest entrance



Cuckoo bee *Nomada signata*. The special parasite of *A. fulva*

Hymettus Ltd is the premier source of advice on the conservation of bees, wasps and ants within Great Britain and Ireland.

<http://hymettus.org.uk/>

BWARS, The Bees Wasps & Ants Recording Society is the national recording scheme which provides the only source of fully validated data on the UK bee, wasp & ant fauna.

<http://www.bwars.com/>

For further information, and submission of records

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