



BWARS

Information Sheet

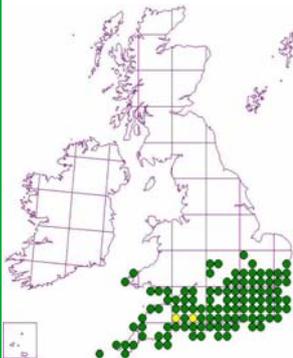
YELLOW-LEGGED MINING-BEE (*Andrena flavipes*)

Stuart Roberts

- * Safe with Children and with Pets
- * Important wild pollinator of Fruit trees
- * Nest in large aggregations
- * **Can you add to our knowledge?**

Featuring:

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



UK distribution of *Andrena flavipes*



Summer brood female *A. flavipes* at Hawkbit



Female *A. flavipes* at nest entrance

Background and Distribution

The Yellow-legged Mining-bee (*Andrena flavipes*) is one of the commonest and most obvious of the spring-flying solitary bee species over much of southern England. There are no records from Scotland or Ireland, and it is confined to the south coast of Wales. The species has become more widespread and plentiful since the late 1980's

The males look different to the females. They are slimmer, covered in sparser hair and lack the dense brush of orange-yellow hairs on the hind leg.

On continental Europe, *A. flavipes* is a heat loving species and is widespread and common from Britain eastwards across central Europe. It is absent from most of Scandinavia.

The bee has a two flight periods each year. It flies from March to May, and again from June to early August. The spring generation is usually much more numerous than the summer generation, with thousands of individuals at favoured sites.

Habitat and Conservation

Andrena flavipes nests are constructed in the ground, and are often found in dense aggregations in suitable, exposed banks and cliffs, tended lawns, flower beds, roadside verges 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, south-facing cliffs, grasslands, orchards and on the edges of cropped agricultural land.

In most areas where the bee is found, *A. flavipes* plays host to the cuckoo bee *Nomada fucata*.

No special conservation measures are necessary.



A female of *Andrena flavipes* at Pear



Male *A. flavipes* nectaring at Ox-eye Daisy



Cuckoo bee *Nomada fucata*
The special parasite of *Andrena flavipes*

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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