

## **IRISH BUMBLEBES 2**

Thanks to all those who have generously allowed their photographs to be used in this guide

Photographs will first appear unlabelled so that you have the option to test your identification if you wish







**Bombus pascuorum**: this species can be very variable. Always look for the combination of ginger thorax and some black hairs on the abdomen









**Bombus pascuorum**: this species seems to be more prone to fading and becoming worn than the other species. This individual is exceptionally worn but you can see that the thorax is a uniform colour (has to be ginger) and that the abdomen has some black hairs.













With only a photograph, it is difficult to get a perspective of the size of workers in comparison to the queens. Queens are noticeably large (particularly *B. terrestris*) and are only observed occasionally outside spring.





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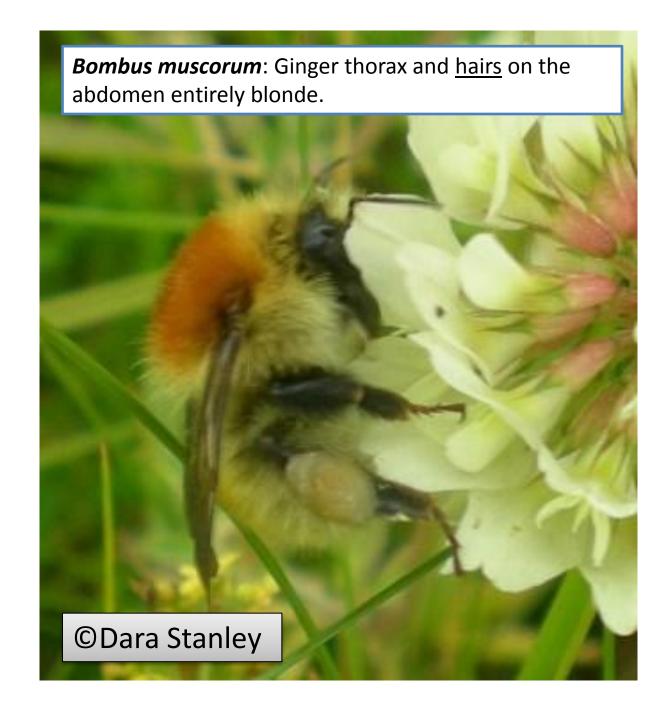


**Bombus monticola** male: Note that most of the abdomen is a rich red. Two yellow bands on thorax and face yellow. Found only in counties Antrim, Dublin, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny & Wexford ©Michael O'Donnell















**Bombus muscorum var allenellus**: This is a unique variety of *B. muscorum* found only on the Aran Islands. It has a ginger thorax and blonde abdomen (as usual) but the sides of thorax and abdomen are jet black.

















Bombus hortorum: slightly difficult to see but this bee has a white tail and two yellow bands on the thorax. Note the long face (longer than wide). **©Anneke Vrieling** 















**Bombus lapidarius queen**: Red tail and otherwise jet black. Black hairs on its hind leg distinguish it from *B. ruderarius* females (hard to see here). *B. lapidarius* is common.

















**Bombus lapidarius queen and male:** you can't see the colour of the hairs on the queens hind legs but you can see that the male has yellow bands so has to be *B. lapidarius*.









Bombus lapidarius male: Note the red tail, yellow band on thorax and yellow face. B. lapidarius males have red hairs on their legs (can't see in this photograph). Common. Could possibly be confused with B. pratorum males, but they have a yellow band on the abdomen whereas B. lapidarius males do not.

















Bombus vestalis: Hind leg not flattened and does not have a long fringe of hairs (so cuckoo bee). Note the white tail with very obvious yellow flashes. Hasn't been recorded in Ireland since 1926 © Alvesgaspar Wikimedia Commons







**Bombus bohemicus**: Note the white tail and no bands on abdomen (cuckoo species). One band on thorax and slight yellow flashes at top of white tail -B. bohemicus

