

SIMPLE GUIDES TO SOLITARY BEES IN IRELAND

PART 3

Guide to *Nomada*



April 2013: © Úna FitzPatrick

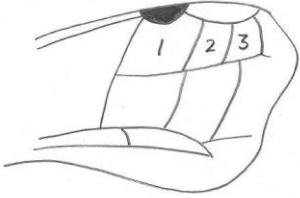
NOMADA

- 12 Irish species
- Can resemble wasps – often black, yellow or red stripes on abdomen
- Cuckoo bee – parasites nests of *Andrena* species
- found in a variety of habitats



Special thanks to Josef Dvořák who has very kindly allowed his photographs of pinned specimens to be used in this guide.

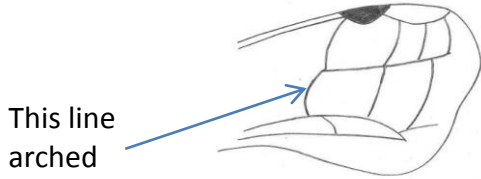
<http://www.biolib.cz/en/gallery/dir388>



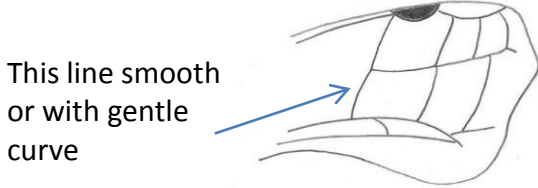
3 cells in wing

Very simple key to the genera known from Ireland

Not *Xylocopa* or *Sphecodes*



This line arched



This line smooth or with gentle curve

Very obvious hair bands on abdomen

Hair bands absent or not obvious

Lasioglossum

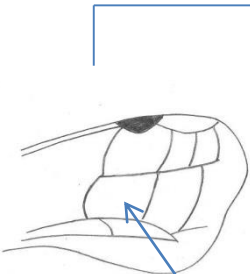
Hairy

Andrena

Almost hairless

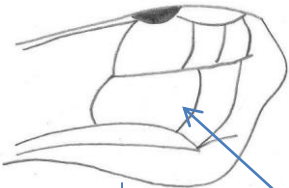
Nomada

Wasp like – abdomen with yellow, black or red bands



Cell on left similar to one on right

Colletes

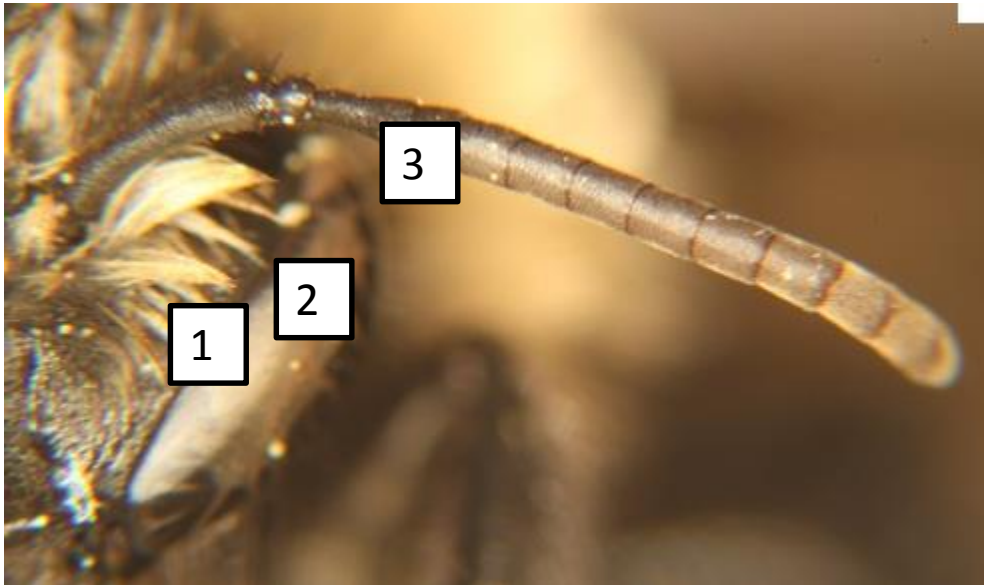


Cell on left larger than one on right

Halictus

IS IT A MALE OR A FEMALE?

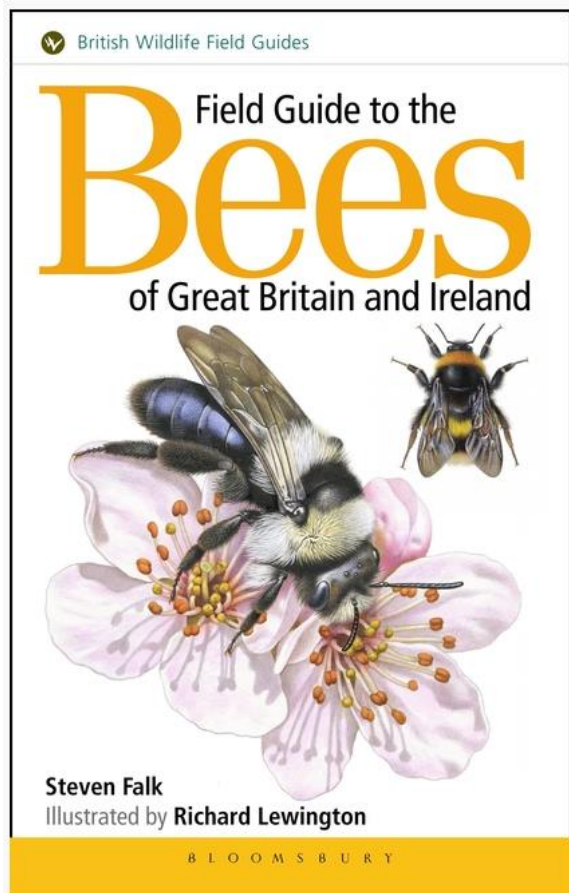
1. Length of the antennae. Males have 13 segments, females have 12
2. Only females have a sting



You need to use different keys for males and females.

In general male solitary bees are more difficult to identify to species than females

Recommended keys to *Nomada*



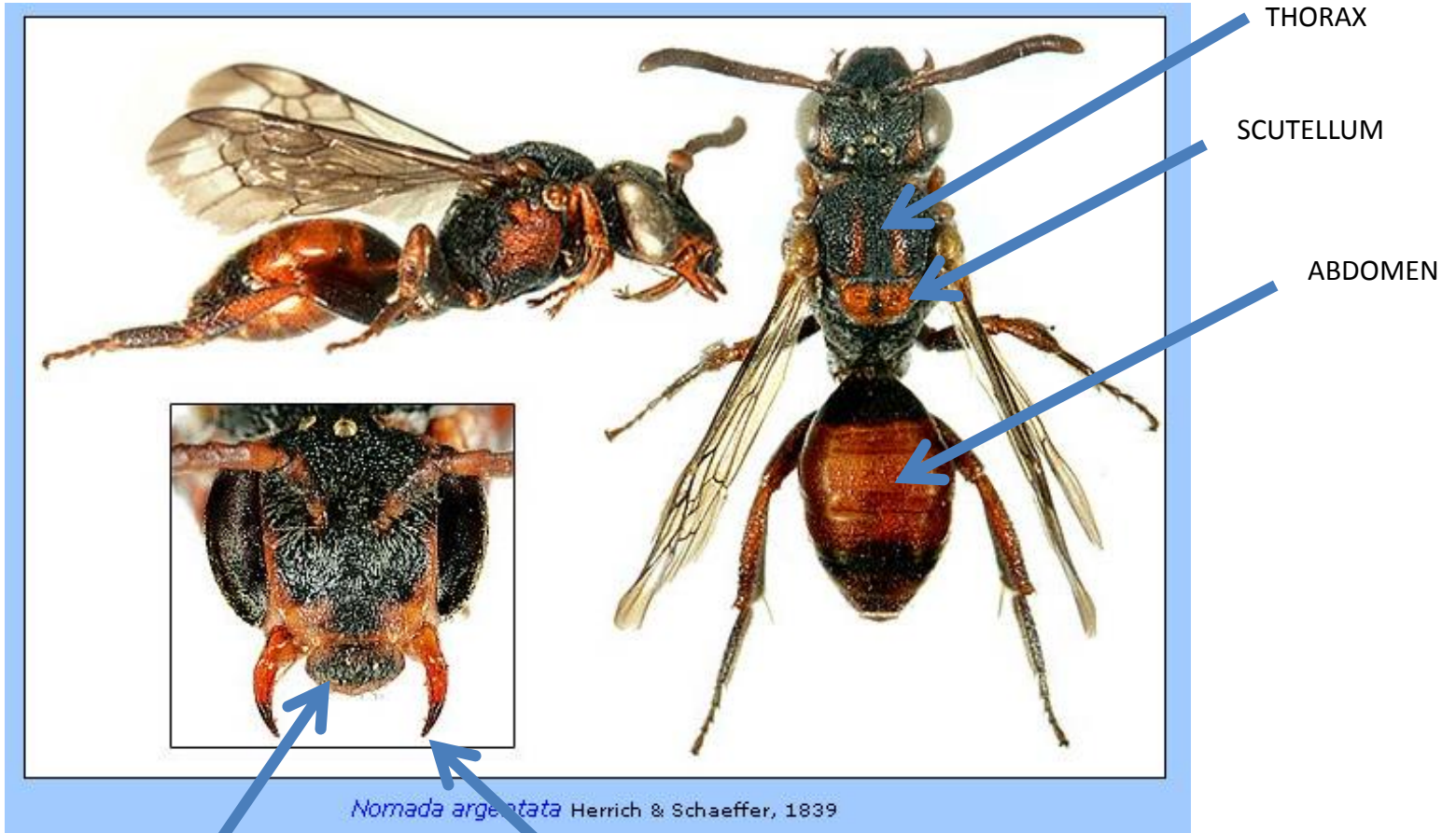
NOMADA

This is **NOT** a key to *Nomada* species. It is simply intended as a guide to help make the genus more accessible to beginners. It refers only to species currently known from Ireland

Reference specimens

Having reference specimens for comparison is important for accurate solitary bee identification. It is the intention of the National Biodiversity Data Centre to maintain a reference collection of Irish species which will be available for public use during office hours.

KEY FEATURES



12 IRISH NOMADA SPECIES IN A NUTSHELL



3 medium-large species,
abdomen with black &
yellow only



5 small species,
abdomen generally
black & red



4 medium-large
species, abdomen
with black, red &
yellow

Obvious species: medium-large & abdomen with black and yellow bands, no red

Can be identified in the field, the below applies to both males and females

N. marshamella (9-13mm)



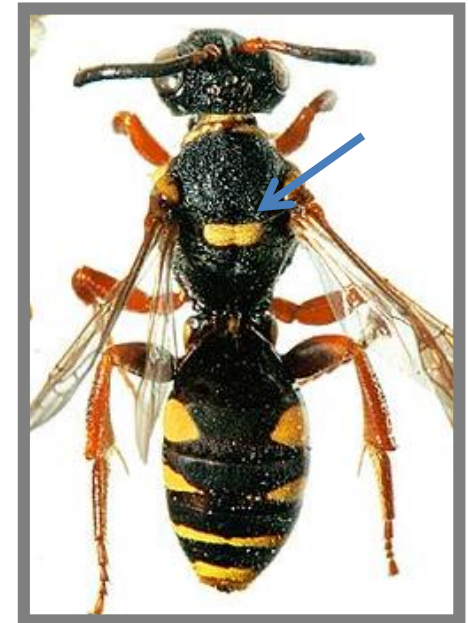
Second yellow band on abdomen is broken.

N. goodeniana (9-13mm)



Second yellow band on abdomen is entire.

N. rufipes (8-10mm)



Widely interrupted bands on abdomen & scutellum with a single transverse yellow spot.

Small species: generally black & red (little yellow on abdomen)

N. argentata (7-9mm)



Normada argentata Herrich & Schaeffer

VERY RARE

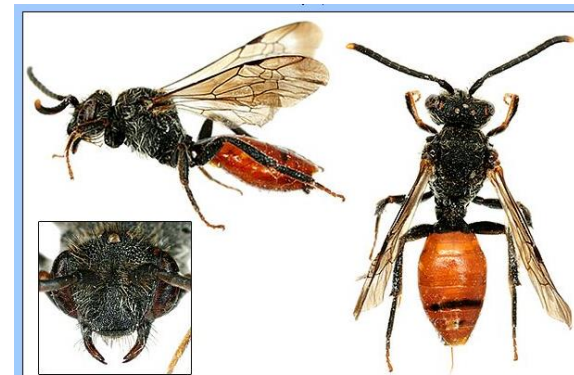
N. sheppardana (4-6 mm)



Normada sheppardana

VERY RARE

N. fabriciana (7-11 mm)



Normada fabriciana (Linnaeus, 1767)

N. flavoguttata (5-9 mm)



Normada flavoguttata (Kirby, 1802)

N. obtusifrons (6-9 mm)



Small species: generally black & red (little yellow on abdomen)

N. argentata (7-9mm)

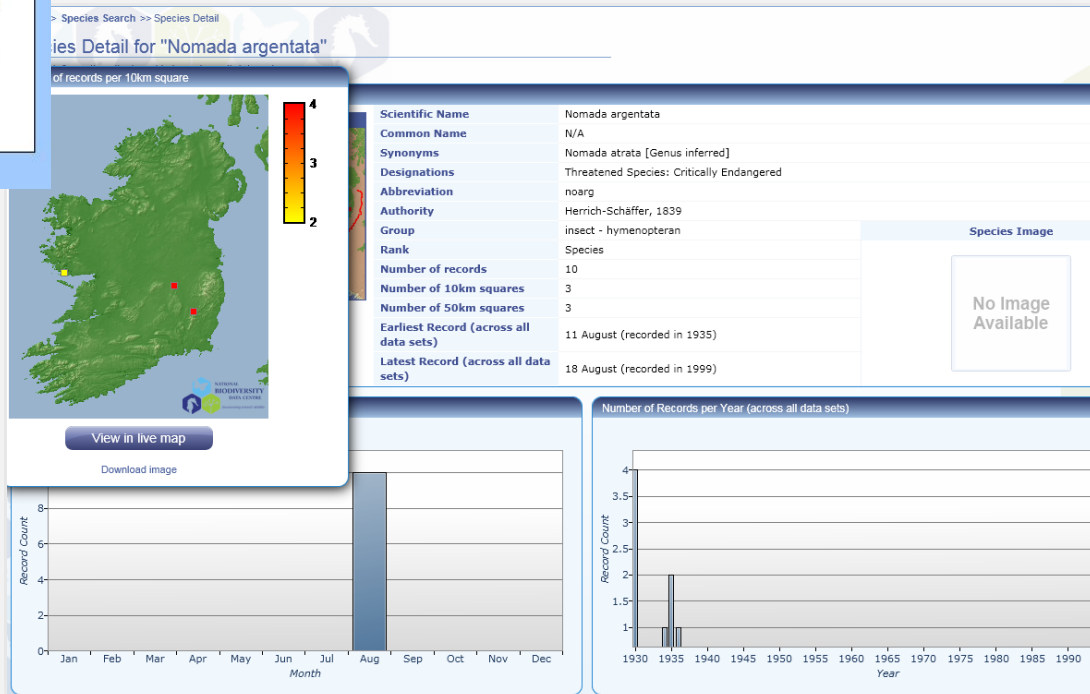
VERY RARE



Nomada argentata Herrich & Schaeffer, 1839

©Josef Dvořák: <http://www.biolib.cz/en/gallery/dir388>

- Dark in colour
- Late summer species
- Some association with grasslands, favours *Scabious*
- Females have a black labrum



*Photographs are of females

Small species: generally black & red (little yellow on abdomen)

N. sheppardana (4-6 mm)

VERY RARE



Nomada sheppardana (Kirby, 1802)

©Josef Dvořák: <http://www.biolib.cz/en/gallery/dir388>

- Very small (4-6mm)
- Dark in colour
- Very rare (last recorded 1902)
- Labrum red-orange in females

Detail for "*Nomada sheppardana*"

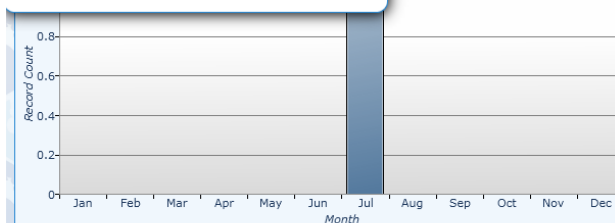
Records per 10km square



1

[View in live map](#)

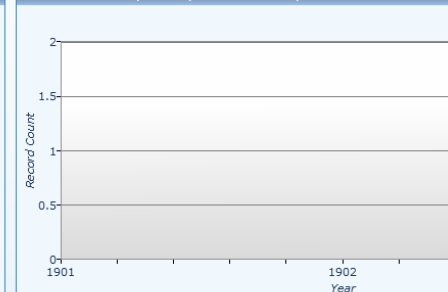
[Download image](#)



Scientific Name	Nomada sheppardana
Common Name	Dark Nomad Bee
Synonyms	Nomada dalii [Genus inferred], Nomada furva misident., Nomada furva misident. [C]
Designations	Threatened Species: Regionally Extinct
Abbreviation	noshe
Authority	(Kirby, 1802)
Group	insect - hymenopteran
Rank	Species
Number of records	1
Number of 10km squares	1
Number of 50km squares	1
Earliest Record (across all data sets)	27 July (recorded in 1902)
Latest Record (across all data sets)	27 July (recorded in 1902)

No Av

Number of Records per Year (across all data sets)

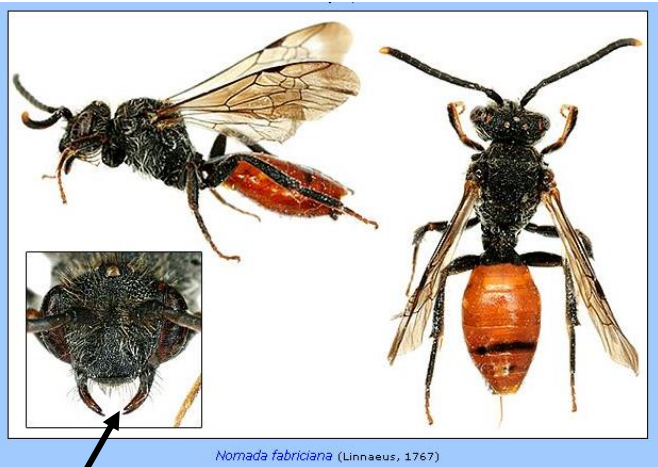


*Photographs are of females

Small species: generally black & red (little yellow on abdomen)

LABRUM BLACK
AT LEAST PARTLY

N. fabriciana (7-11 mm)



Bidentate (two teeth on mandible)

- Females & males: bidentate (other small species unidentate)
- Females: tip and lower half of antennae are red/brown separated by black segments in between
- Flight period: April - August

N. obtusifrons (6-9 mm)



- Females & males: have a characteristic flat topped ridge between the antennae
- Flight period: June - August

*Photographs are of females, unless indicated

©Josef Dvořák: <http://www.biolib.cz/en/gallery/dir388>

Small species: generally black & red (little yellow on abdomen)

LABRUM BLACK
AT LEAST PARTLY

N. flavoguttata (5-9 mm)

This species doesn't have an obvious identifying feature



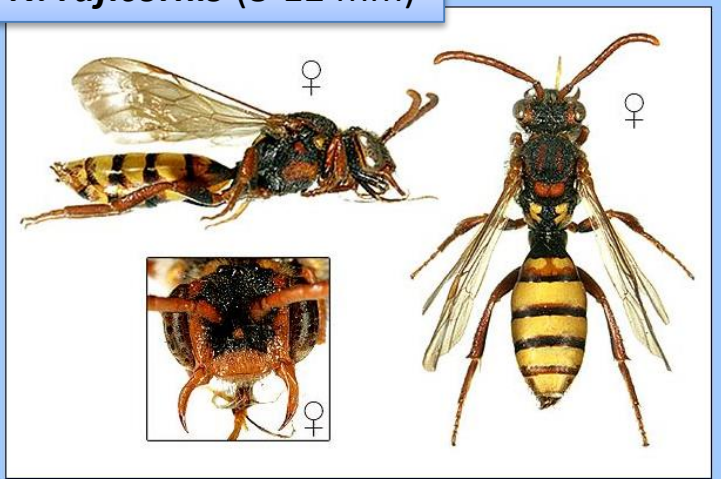
- Females: thorax with reddish markings
- Females: Yellow flashes on abdomen
- Flight period: April - August

Unidentate

Medium-large species: abdomen black, yellow & red

LABRUM YELLOW OR RED-ORANGE

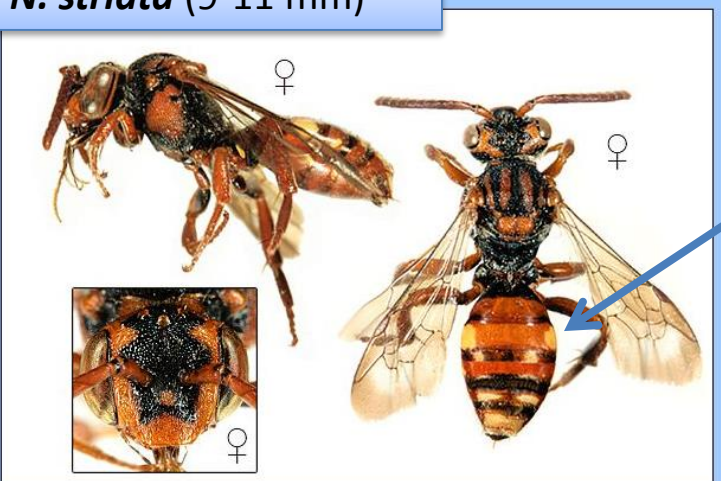
N. ruficornis (8-12 mm)



Nomada ruficornis (Linnaeus, 1758)

- Females & males: bidentate (other medium-large species unidentate)
- Flight period: April - August

N. striata (9-11 mm)



Nomada striata Fabricius, 1793

- Females & males: abdomen with wide yellow side spots
- Flight period: May - July

N. leucophthalma (9-13 mm)



Normada leucophthalma (Kirby, 1802)

- This species doesn't have an obvious identifying feature
- Females: rarely have red stripes on the thorax (other medium-large females normally do)
- Flight period: March - June

Photographs are of females. ©Josef Dvořák: <http://www.biolib.cz/en/gallery/dir388>

N. panzeri (7-13 mm)



- This species doesn't have an obvious identifying feature
- Variable, can be difficult to ID
- Flight period: April - September

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