

European beewolf

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Philanthus triangulum, commonly known as the **European beewolf** or the **bee-eating philanthus** (from the now obsolete synonym *Philanthus apivorus*), is a solitary wasp that lives in Europe and Northern Africa. Although the adults of the species are herbivores (feeding on nectar and pollen), the species derives its name from the behavior of the inseminated females, who hunt Western honey bees. The female places several of its paralyzed prey together with an egg in a small underground chamber, to serve as food for the wasp larvae. All members of the genus *Philanthus* hunt various species of bees, but *P. triangulum* is apparently the only one that specializes in Western honey bees.

Status in the UK

This wasp was previously considered to be one of the great aculeate rarities in Britain, with colonies only in sandy habitats on the Isle of Wight and Suffolk. It has undergone an expansion in range, with the wasp now locally common in a steadily increasing number of sites as far north as Yorkshire (2002). The species has RDB2 status (vulnerable) but, if revised, it is now likely that this status will be removed because of its increase in range and population.^[1]

References

- "Species Account for *Philanthus triangulum*" (<http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Species+Account/s/Philanthus%20triangulum>). Essex Field Club. Retrieved 28 August 2013.

External links

- Biology of the European beewolf (<http://www.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/beewolfbiology.html>)
- Semiochemicals of *Philanthus triangulum*, the European beewolves (<http://www.pherobase.com/database/species/species-Philanthus-triangulum.php>)
- Bee-killer wasps (<http://www.david.element.ukgateway.net/hymenoptera1beekillerwasps.htm>)
- Evolution of the sex pheromone of male European beewolves (http://www.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/beewolf_pheromone.html)
- Short video of *Philanthus* excavating nest in UK (<http://www.naturenet.net/blogs/2007/07/lock-up-your-bees/>)

European beewolf



A European beewolf



European beewolf paralyzing a bee

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Hymenoptera
Family:	Crabronidae
Subfamily:	Philanthinae
Genus:	<i>Philanthus</i>
Species:	<i>P. triangulum</i>

Binomial name

Philanthus triangulum

(Fabricius, 1775)

Synonyms

- Philanthus abdelcader*
Lepeletier, 1845
- Philanthus apivorus*
Latreille, 1799

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- *Vespa ruspatrix* Linné, 1767
- *Vespa triangulum* Fabricius, 1775



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