



Biosecurity alert: Red dwarf honey bee

(*Apis florea*)

The pest and its impacts

Red dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*) are easily distinguished by their small size in comparison to the European honey bee, being just 7–10 millimetres in length. They have a red/brown abdomen with black and white bands.

Red dwarf honey bees are characterised by their external nesting habits. Their nest is made up of an exposed single horizontal comb less than 25 centimetres wide that is built around and attached to tree branches or other support. Early detection is key to protecting Western Australia's valuable bee and pollination dependent horticultural industries. Immediately report any unusual bees or nests.

Key risks

The Red dwarf honey bee can carry *Euvarroa* mites (*Euvarroa wongsirii* and *Euvarroa sinhai*) both of which are close relatives to the destructive *Varroa* mites. The species can also carry *Tropilaelaps* mites (*Tropilaelaps clareae*). Exotic bees are a pathway for bee pests and viruses so they must be reported.





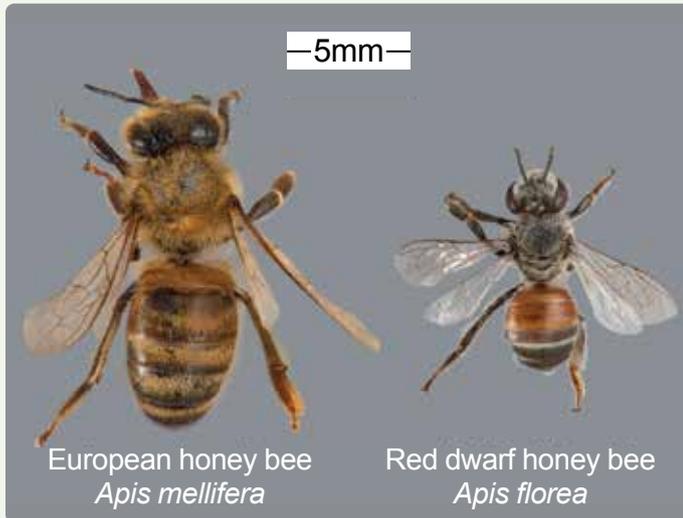
LOOK for this pest

Bee

- 7–10mm in size
- red/brown abdomen with black and white bands
- smaller in size than the European honey bee

Nest

- exposed single horizontal comb
- less than 25cm wide
- built around a support including trees, rocks or shipping containers



REPORT suspected sightings

- If you work at a port or transport imported goods and shipping containers, you must report any sighting of bees associated with these goods.
- It's important that any suspect pest is reported.
- Early detection will help protect WA's horticulture industries.



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2023.

