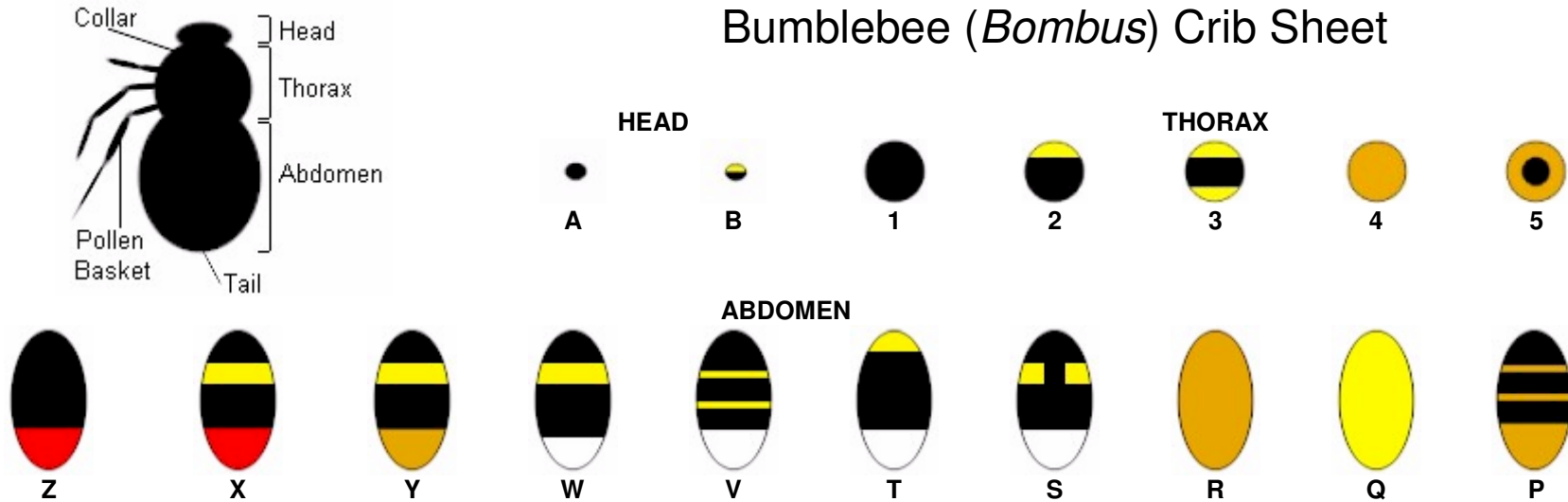


# Bumblebee (*Bombus*) Crib Sheet



What to do?
























1. Decide which combination of schematic head, thorax and abdomen shown above best matches the bee you are trying to identify.
2. Look up the combination in the table opposite to find the contenders.
3. if there is more than one contender, use the further information overleaf to try to resolve the issue.

But remember:

1. Only 3 colours are used in the chart. They should be interpreted as “some hue of yellow”, “some hue of red” and “some hue of brown”. Of course there is a blurring at the edge and bees vary a lot!
2. Bumblebee colouring is hair colour and hairs wear off with age, so beware pensioner bees.
3. Bumblebees vary in shape. In some species shape can be an important identifying feature.
4. Bumblebee size can be significantly affected by nutrition, so beware small versions of normally larger species.
5. Beware mimics – cuckoo bumblebees and some hoverflies.

Head	Thor.	Abd.	Contenders
A	1	Z	lapidarius (Q,W), ruderarius (Q,W)
A	2	S	lucorum (Q), soroeensis (Q,W)
A	2	W	lucorum (Q,W), soroeensis (M), terrestris (W)
A	2	X	pratorum
A	2	Y	terrestris (M,Q)
A	2	Z	monticola, ruderarius (M)
A	3	Q	distinguendus
A	3	T	hortorum, jonellus (Q,W), ruderatus
A	3	Z	monticola, ruderarius (M)
A	4	R	muscorum, pascuorum
A	5	P	sylvarum
B	2	V	lucorum (M)
B	2	Z	lapidarius (M)
B	3	T	jonellus (M)
B	3	V	lucorum (M)

NB. Q = Queen; W = Worker; M=Male

Name	Queen	Worker	Male	Tongue	Habitat	Distribution	Frequency	Notes
<i>B. distinguendus</i> (Great Yellow)				Long	Open ground – flower rich meadows	North & west Scotland	Scarce	Abdomen yellow-brown
<i>B. hotorum</i> (Garden)				Long	Garden	Countrywide	Common	Bright yellow. Scruffy. Pollen basket of black hair. Feeds on deep flowers.
<i>B. jonellus</i> (Heath)				Short	Mainly open ground - coasts & heaths	Countrywide	Common	Straw yellow. Pollen basket of pale hairs
<i>B. lapidarius</i> (Red-Tailed)				Mid	Garden	Countrywide	Common	Black hairs on pollen basket (cf. ruderarius)
<i>B. lucorum</i> (White-tailed)				Short	Garden	Countrywide	Common	Queens bright yellow; 1 <sup>st</sup> abd. band maybe broken, like soroensis. Workers indistinguishable from terrestris. Amount yellow varies on male.
<i>B. monticola</i> (Bilberry)				Short	Open ground – moorland	Countrywide; mainly northern	Local	Heart-shaped abdomen, mainly red. Rear thoracic band maybe missing.
<i>B. muscorum</i> (Scarce Carder)				Long	Open ground – coastal	Northern	Local	Bronze/pale yellow. Silvery sheen on abdomen. Usually larger than pascuorum.
<i>B. pascuorum</i> (Common Carder)				Long	Garden	Countrywide	Common	Tawny/foxy. Scruffy. Variable amounts of black on abdomen.
<i>B. pratorum</i> (Early)				Short	Garden	Countrywide	Common	Tail pinkish or dull orange. Male & workers small. Abdominal band maybe missing.
<i>B. ruderarius</i> (Red-Shanked Carder)				Long	Open ground	Countrywide; mainly southern	Scarce	Red hairs on pollen basket (cf. lapidarius). Yellow & red duller than lapidarius. Male may have 2 <sup>nd</sup> yellow band at rear thorax.
<i>B. ruderatus</i>				Long	Open ground	Southern	Scarce	Similar hotorum. Yellow bands narrower & darker. 1 <sup>st</sup> abdominal band often broken.
<i>B. soroensis</i> (Broken-belted)				Mid	Open ground – grassland & moorland	Countrywide	Local	Broken band not always obvious. Worn lucorum & queen lucorum can have broken band. Male tail maybe reddish-brown.
<i>B. sylvarum</i> (Shrill Carder)				Long	Open ground	Southern	Scarce	Thorax & abdominal bands pale brown. Tail orangey brown.
<i>B. terrestris</i> (Buff-tailed)				Short	Garden	Countrywide	Common	Queens large with square-tail & orangey yellow. Workers indistinguishable from lucorum. Males sometimes white-tailed.