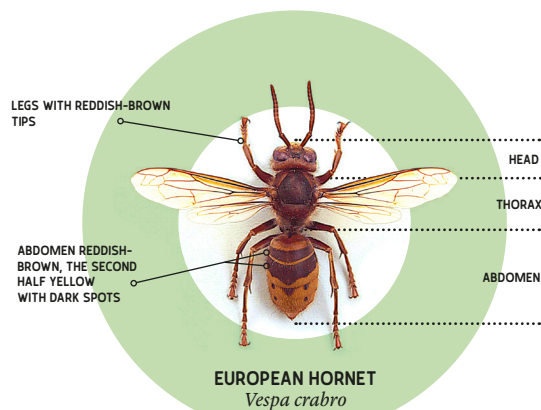
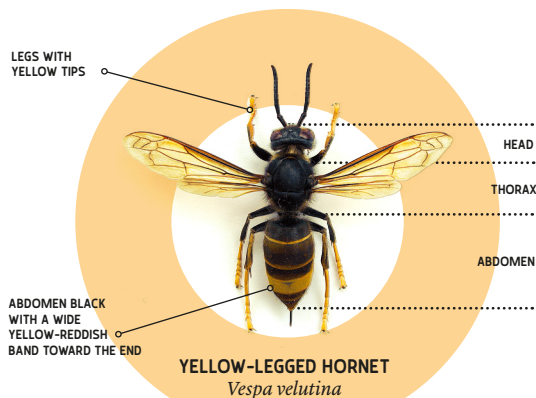


HOW TO RECOGNIZE VESPA VELUTINA

Vespa velutina can easily be confused with our European hornet. What are the distinctive characters? It is slightly smaller, with a colour tending to black, a narrow yellow line at the beginning of the abdomen (near the wasp waist!) and a wide yellow/orange stripe in the terminal part of the abdomen. The legs are black with yellow tips. The head is yellow/orange frontally, black when viewed from above.

In the European hornet, the thorax has reddish spots and the abdomen appears yellow with black stripes. The legs are brown. The head is yellow in front and orange/brown when viewed from above.



How to avoid the invasion! A new threat to beekeeping, agriculture and biodiversity.

Project site
www.vespavelutina.eu

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HELP US TO FACE THE DANGER!

Let's stop the invasion
of *Vespa velutina*!
A new threat to beekeeping,
biodiversity and people.

For information
and reports:
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LIFE14/NAT/IT/001128 STOPVESPA
realized with the contribution of the LIFE
PROGRAMME of the European Commission



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO



HELP US TO COUNTERACT VESPA VELUTINA



1. MONITORING

The early detection and neutralization of the nests is the only effective method to fight the expansion of the Yellow-legged hornet.



2. OBSERVATION OF NESTS IN NATURE

The nests are built mainly on the trees at heights generally above 5 metres, easily hidden by vegetation. Nevertheless, there are nests near homes or other buildings.



3. OBSERVATIONS IN THE APIARY

In the apiary, *Vespa velutina* can be easily observed capturing the bees at the entrance of the hives.



Secondary nests of *Vespa velutina*

BEEES IN DANGER... BUT NOT ONLY

Vespa velutina or **Yellow-legged hornet** is an alien and invasive species native to South-East Asia, accidentally introduced into France in 2004 and since 2012 also present in Italy (Liguria and Piedmont sporadically). Its predatory activity threatens bees causing the weakening of the colonies, and finally their death.



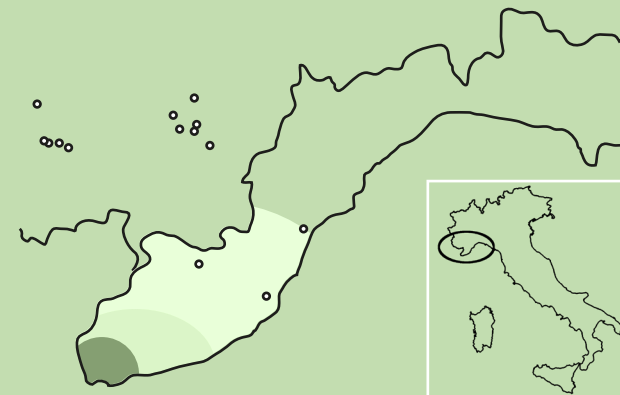
Vespa velutina chasing bees

The hornet preys also wild bees and other insects, with possible consequences, for example, on plant reproduction, due to insufficient pollination. The spread of the Yellow-legged hornet is a danger to the entire biodiversity. The aggressiveness of this insect and its bigger colonies, compared to our European hornet (*Vespa crabro*) may pose a risk to people in case of nests built in urban areas.



Secondary nests of *Vespa velutina*

WHAT IS STOPVESPA



Area of presence of *Vespa velutina* in Liguria from 2013 to 2015; the dots mark individual spottings

The Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie, Forestali e Alimentari (DISAFA) of the Università di Torino, the Dipartimento di Elettronica e Telecomunicazioni (DET) of the Politecnico di Torino, the Abbazia dei Padri Benedettini Santa Maria di Finalpia and the Associazione Produttori Miele del Piemonte (ASPROMIELE)

launched in 2015 the project **LIFE STOPVESPA**, funded by the European Commission, with the aim to stop this new threat to biodiversity, beekeeping and agriculture.

The scheduled actions will permit to set up a widespread monitoring network, an early warning and rapid response system, the development of new intervention procedures to detect and neutralize the nests, including a harmonic radar capable to track the flight of the wasps and locate their nests.

