



**BWARS**

## Information Sheet

### Harebell Carpenter Bee (*Chelostoma campanularum*)

Leslie Hebdon & Stuart Roberts

- \* Safe with Children and with Pets
- \* Common in parks and gardens
- \* Nest in old beetle holes
- \* **Can you add to our knowledge?**

#### Featuring:

- Background information
- Distribution in UK and the world
- Habitat requirements
- Conservation

## Background and Distribution

This small slender black bee is closely associated with Bellflowers (*Campanula* species) and is a frequent, though overlooked, visitor to gardens and parks.

It has a single flight period from the middle of June to mid August and is widespread and fairly common in the southern half of England.

The distribution in Europe extends from southern Finland south to Spain and north Africa. The bee has been introduced to New York state, USA .

Both sexes are a similar size (6-7mm). The male has a distinctive two-pronged peg on the final segment of the abdomen and the female has pale pollen collecting hairs on the underside.

## Biology and Conservation

Small beetle holes in dead trees or woodworm holes in old sheds and fences are used for nesting.

The Harebell Carpenter-bee specialises on Harebell, Nettle-leaved and Clustered Bellflowers and also Sheep's bit. They have also been recorded in gardens collecting pollen from *Geranium* cultivars in addition to garden species of Bellflower.

To collect the pollen the female lands on the anthers of the flower, holding them by gripping with her mandibles and front legs, whilst using her back legs to push the pollen backwards on to the hairs on the underside of the abdomen.

The males can often be found in the same flower for several days at a time when weather conditions are poor. Mating takes place in the flowers. The females are only active on warm days. Groups of several females can often be seen foraging in the same flower.

Planting various Bellflowers and providing nesting sites (in the form of dry reed stems) can encourage the species into gardens.



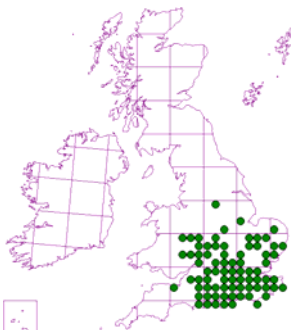
A female of *C. campanularum* with a full pollen load



Multiple visitors to a garden *Campanula*



A mating pair of *Chelostoma campanularum*



UK distribution of *Chelostoma campanularum*



Dried reed stems - an ideal nesting site



Male *C. campanularum*

**Hymettus Ltd** is the premier source of advice on the conservation of bees, wasps and ants within Great Britain and Ireland.

<http://hymettus.org.uk/>

**BWARS, The Bees Wasps & Ants Recording Society** is the national recording scheme which provides the only source of fully validated data on the UK bee, wasp & ant fauna.

<http://www.bwars.com/>

For further information, and submission of records

contact: [campanularum\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:campanularum[at]gmail.com)

Photos: L. Hebdon, S. Roberts