



BWARS

Featuring:

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



UK distribution of *Andrena grävada*



Female *A. grävada* at Dandelion flower



Cuckoo bee of *A. grävada*: *Nomada bifasciata*

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/>

Information Sheet

BANDED MINING-BEE

(*Andrena grävada*)

Vikki Gallagher

Background and Distribution

The Banded Mining-bee (*Andrena grävada*) is widespread throughout central and southern Europe, ranging from southern Sweden to central Asia.

In England, the species is uncommon, and confined to the South East corner; although there are unconfirmed records for Hampshire and West Sussex. No records exist from Scotland or Wales.

This species flies in the UK from late March to early May.

A. grävada is characterized by white hairs on the sides of the thorax and in bands across the abdomen. The males do not differ much from the females in appearance only in size; they are often smaller than the females.

The bee has a single brood per year in the spring. However, two males have been collected in July and early August in Kent, suggesting a potential second brood.

Habitat and Conservation

Andrena grävada nests are constructed in the ground, often in a variety of south facing open areas and in sandy soils such as banks, parkland, chalk grassland and ploughed field margins. They are often only found singly or in small aggregations.

Pollen is foraged from a wide range of plant species including flowering trees, shrubs, weeds and garden species. Typical forage plants include apples, cherries, dandelions and sallows.

In continental Europe (though not in UK), *A. grävada* plays host to the cuckoo bee *Nomada bifasciata*.

Classified as vulnerable under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority List due to loss of habitat. No formal conservation measures are currently implemented.

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/>

- * Safe with Children and with Pets
- * Important wild pollinator of fruit trees
- * Nest singly or in small aggregations
- * **Can you add to our knowledge?**



A male *Andrena grävada* at Ox-eye Daisy



Female *A. grävada* nectaring at Ox-eye Daisy



Habitat of *Andrena grävada*
Sandy verge and flowering trees

For further information, and submission of records

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