Pollinator Observation

Find a blooming lilac bush (or any flowering plant with lots of blooms). Sit down for 10 minutes and record how many of each type of pollinator you see. Make a mark next to each category. Then add the totals up at the end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
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<td>![Bee]</td>
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<td>Bee</td>
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<td>![Bumble Bee]</td>
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<td>Bumble Bee</td>
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<td>![Wasp]</td>
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Quick guide to Insect Identification for the Wild Pollinator Count

Tips to help you count insects in the correct categories.

Enter your results from a 10-minute count on a flowering plant of your choice at:
https://wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/

**BEE**

* Look for:
  - **Body shape** hourglass, with 'waist' and cylindrical abdomen & thorax.
  - **Pollen-carrying hair** (scopa) on legs or abdomen (for many females, not all)
  - **Long antennae** often with kink/elbow
  - **Eyes** long, oval, at side of ‘face’, often black
  - **Wings** often on back at rest and shorter than the body (2 pairs)
  - **Head** triangular or tear-shaped

* With more than 1,600 species of bees in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

**FLY**

* Look for:
  - **Eyes** large, round and cover much of the ‘face’
  - **Short antennae**, often hard to see
  - **Body shape** usually ‘stout’ with less obvious ‘waist’
  - **Wings** one pair only, usually longer than body. Often held out at 45° angle at rest
  - **Head** round, large
  - **Other:** Some mimic bees & wasps.

* With at least 7,000 species of flies in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

**WASP**

* Look for:
  - **Body shape** often long and slim, with distinct ‘waist’. Legs often dangle in flight.
  - **Eyes** long, oval-shaped, at side of head, sometimes with a ‘notch’ (emarginate)
  - **Long antennae**
  - **Wings** usually long and thin, generally shorter than the body (2 pairs)
  - **Head** triangular or tear-shaped
  - **Other:** some with visible ovipositor.

* With at least 12,000 species of wasps in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.
**BUTTERFLY**

*Look for:*

- **Wings** held high above body (tent shape)
- **Antennae** with a knob at end
- Typically **brighter colours**
- Generally **fly during the day**

**MOTH**

*Look for:*

- **Wings** held flat along body
- **Antennae** simple or feathery, ending in a fine point
- Typically **dull or iridescent colours**
- Generally **fly at night**

*With more than 20,000 species of butterflies and moths in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.*

**BEETLE**

*Look for:*

- Often **round to oval** body shape
- **Hard forewings** (elytra) with hindwings often hidden (used for flying)
- **Antennae visible**, but varying lengths & shapes
- **Chewing mouthparts**
- Typically **short parts**
- **Huge variety of colors, sizes**

*With more than 20,000 species of beetles in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.*

**Ladybird beetle**

*Look for:*

- **Domed body shape**
- **Short legs**
- **Short, clubbed antennae**
- **Variety of colours** and patterns

**European honey bee**

*Look for:*

- General **'bee' characteristics**
- **Pollen** collected on back legs
- **Colours vary** from golden to near black, and with light to distinctive stripes.
- **Hairy appearance.** Black eyes. Larger than most native bees. Common. Buzz.

**Blue-banded bee**

*Look for:*

- General **'bee' characteristics**
- **Stripes typically blue** (but can be lighter or orange) on **black abdomen**.
- **Pollen** collected on back legs
- **Hairy appearance.** Rounder body, smaller than honey bees.

**Hover fly**

*Look for:*

- 'Hovering' flight above plants
- **Large round eyes** covering much of the face, small antennae
- **Usually yellow and black**, but colors, patterns and size vary between species
- **Not hairy.** Slim legs. Flat abdomen when viewed side-on.

**European wasp**

*Look for:*

- **Stocky shape, ~15mm long**
- **Yellow with black markings**
- **Not hairy. Black antennae.** Yellow legs.

**Other insects**

If you see other insects while watching flowers, note them too. You can also include comments or photos with your count.