

CUCKOO BEE FEMALES WITH WHITE & CREAM TAILS © Steven Falk 2021

Bombus vestalis



Very neat deep-black pile (like a queen *lapidarius*); bright yellow tail-flashes when fresh but bleaching out when older (right image); collar darker and usually narrower; never with a paler scutellum fringe. Large, size of a queen *lapidarius*.

Bombus bohemicus



Slightly smaller and fluffier than *vestalis*; collar paler & broader; weak scutellum fringe can be present; tail-flashes pale yellow when fresh but rapidly bleaching out (right image) to create an appearance more like *sylvestris* but longer, flatter & less fluffy.

Bombus sylvestris



Smaller, rounder & fluffier; tail strongly downcurved.

Bombus barbutellus



Larger with pale-haired scutellum; top of head pale-haired too.

Bombus campestris



Tail buff-haired at sides, almost bald in middle; scutellum usually conspicuously pale-haired but occasionally not (right); tail strongly downcurved (like *sylvestris*); pale markings buff rather than yellow.