

## A major new resource for British Bees on Flickr

For those of you who are not already aware, Steven Falk has been developing a major new, photographic-based British bee ID and information resource on his Flickr site. His site already provides extensive coverage of various fly and beetle families, slugs, spiders and social wasps. The bee feature will provide highly detailed and almost comprehensive coverage of the British bee fauna and will be completed in 2014. At the point of posting this, all but the three largest genera (*Nomada*, *Lasioglossum* and *Andrena*) are finished, representing half the British bee fauna, and providing valuable coverage of some of our least known bee species such as *Bombus cullumanus*, *B. pomorum*, *Coelioxys afra*, *Sphecodes miniatus* and many more.

The bee collection can be found at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157631518508520/>

Here you will find icons to all the bee genera covered so far. Click on a genus icon and icons for all the individual species will appear. These are species 'sets' and when you click on these you will see a collection of photos for these species. These photos are arranged in a strict sequence of males (living), males (pinned and microscopic details), females (living), females (pinned and microscopic details), photos of known sites and key forage plants for many species, and where appropriate, photos of any hosts or key parasites. Those photos are designed to show you precisely what a species looks like, including the appearance of key features such as male genitalia, mandible shape, punctuation, microsculpture, hair fringes, antennal details etc. It is a virtual field trip or a virtual collection, freely available on-line and will help to complement the two new bee identification guides currently in preparation.

The information does not stop here. If you hover your cursor over the top of the species set main page, a drop down species account will appear. These accounts contain live hyperlinks to the BWARS species account, any JNCC action plan (for UK BAP species) and any other key on-line information such as Hymettus reports.

If you fully open up the individual photos by double-clicking, not only can you see them at full resolution but you will often find useful notes to help you interpret what you are looking at.

Photographs are mostly Steven's but a number of critical gaps have been filled through the generosity of others such as Nick Owens, Tim Ransom and Andy Jukes. If you think you can fill a gap, let Steven know via Flickr. The concept of finished is perhaps misleading as these species sets will be updated as new photos or information appears.

To see Steven's full Flickr collection, which provides coverage of other aculeate species such as social wasps, *Odynerus melanocephalus* and *Formica exsecta*, follow this link:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/>