

# Bee-fly

## *Bombylius major*

### **Identification:**

Bee-flies are easily recognised from a combination of a stout furry body, long proboscis, wings with a clear black stripe along the leading edge, and their hovering flight. They are true flies, but get their name from a superficial resemblance to bumblebees. Larval Bee-flies are parasitic on the larvae of solitary bees. Adults feed on nectar.



Bee-fly *Bombylius major*.

Photo © J.P. Hamon

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bombylius\\_major\\_01.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bombylius_major_01.jpg).

### **Distribution:**

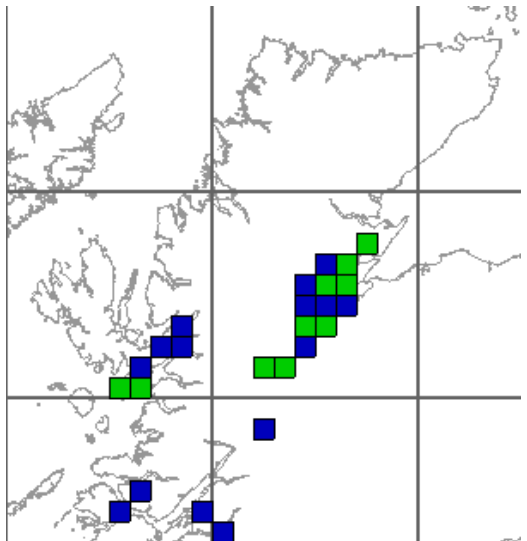
It is common in the Inverness area, but there are gaps in the N and NW, and - surprisingly - in Strathspey. Blue <2006, green 2006 on.

### **When to look for it:**

April to early June. Beeflies are active only in sunshine, and are rarely seen before late morning. Sun-lit bare earth banks where the hosts nest are good places to look. They are frequent visitors to gardens.

### **Similar species:**

No other Highland insect has a combination of the long proboscis and black-striped wings. Some bees and hoverflies have a superficial resemblance.



The National Biodiversity Network records are shown on the map (see terms and conditions at <http://data.nbn.org.uk>). Data providers and the NBN Trust bear no responsibility for any further analysis or interpretation of the information in the map

### **Notes:**

Photographs or specimens of solitary bees associated with Bee-flies would also be welcome.