



Biosecurity alert: Red dwarf honey bee

(*Apis florea*)

The pest and its impacts

Red dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*) are easily distinguished by their small size in comparison to the European honey bee, being just 7–10 millimetres in length. They have a red/brown abdomen with distinct white bands.

Red dwarf honey bees (RDHB) are characterised by their external nesting habits. Their nest is made up of an exposed single horizontal comb usually less than 40 centimetres wide that is built around and attached to tree branches or other support. Early detection is key to protecting Western Australia's valuable bee and pollination dependent horticultural industries. Immediately report any unusual bees or nests.

Key risks

The RDHB can carry *Euvarroa* mites (*Euvarroa sinhai*) which are close relatives to the destructive *Varroa* mites (*Varroa destructor*). The species can also carry *Tropilaelaps* mites (*Tropilaelaps clareae*). Exotic bees are a pathway for bee pests and viruses so they must be reported.





LOOK for this pest

Bee

- 7–10 mm in length
- red/brown abdomen with distinct white bands
- smaller in size than the European honey bee



Left – European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*)
Right – RDHB (*Apis florea*)

Nest

- exposed single horizontal comb
- usually less than 40cm wide
- built around support from either trees, rocks or infrastructure



Left – RDHB nest found on the Burrup Peninsula
Right – RDHB comb found on the Burrup Peninsula



REPORT suspected sightings

If you work at a port or transport imported goods and shipping containers, you must report any sighting of bees associated with these goods.

- It's important that any suspect pest is reported.
- Early detection will help protect WA's horticulture industries.

Report your observations to either:

RDHB Response
0419 948 710
rdhboperationsmanager@dpird.wa.gov.au
or



MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.dpird.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
08 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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