



Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Dufourea*



Female



Male

Genus: *Dufourea* Lepeletier, 1841

Clade: Anthophila

Family: Halictidae

SubFamily: Rophitinae

Tribe: Rophitini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 20

Morphology & diagnosis

They are small- to medium-sized bees (4-10mm). In general the cuticle is black, sometimes presenting green or blue metallic colour. The present short tongues and short clypeus, along with short subantennal sutures generate the impression that the antennae are lower than normal in the face. No spines are present on the faces of females. The wings show two submarginal cells. The tip of the marginal cell is bound to the wing margin, and the basal vein shows an angle. The propodeal enclosure is equal or longer than the scutellum, which is rounded and is not forming an angle with the posterior side. Their pilosity does not form bands on the metasoma.

Summary of distinctive traits

- Small dark bees, sometimes with metallic colors
- 2 submarginal cells (a)
- Short clypeus so that antennae are inserted below the middle of the eyes (b)
- Rounded scutellum as long as or shorter than the propodeal horizontal area (c)



(a) *Dufourea trautmanni* Female



(b) *Dufourea cypria* Female



(c) *Dufourea trautmanni* Female

General comments on identification to species level

Species identification involves size of individuals and criteria of mouthparts, as well as colour, pilosity and punctation on the thorax and first metasomal tergites. Then, the mandibles should be made visible and the wings separated from the body. Males antennae, median legs and last sternites should also be made visible.

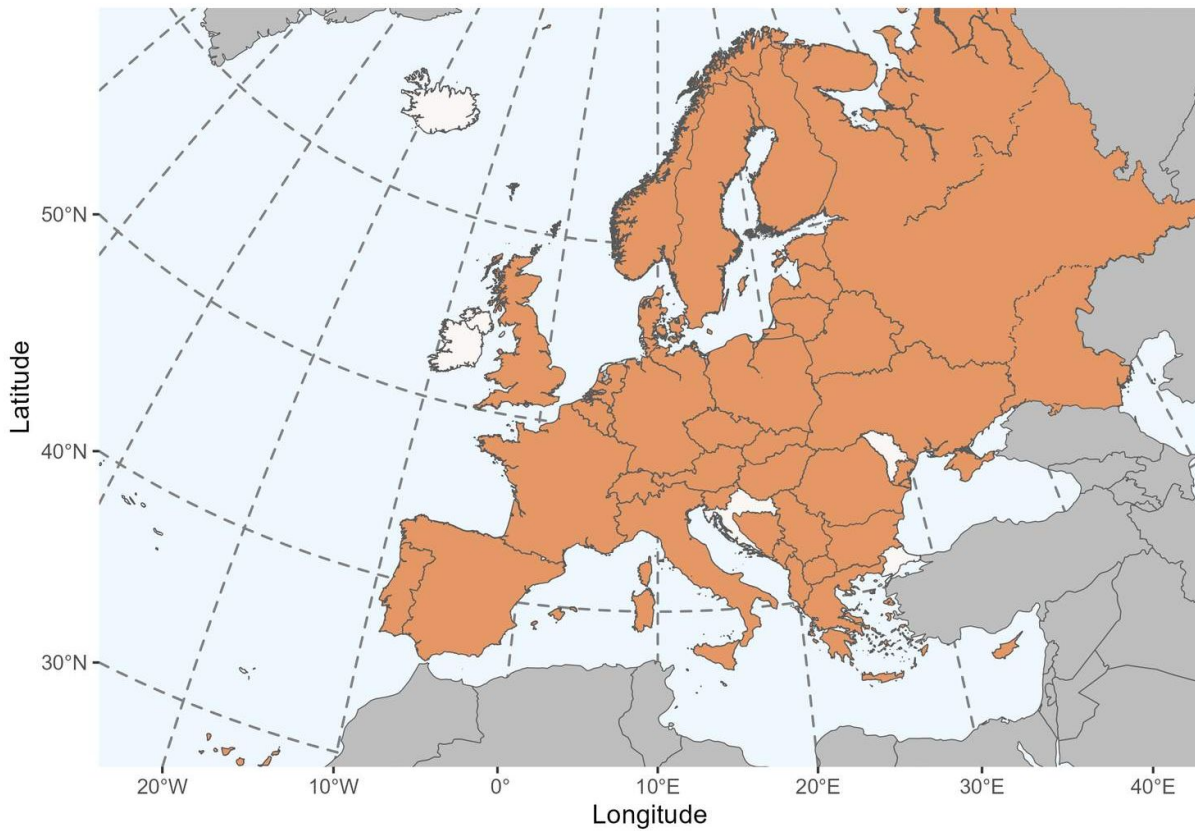
Morphologically similar genera, and how to distinguish them

- *Dufourea* - *Rophites* & *Rophitoides*

Dufourea species have no metasomal hairs band, and a propodeal horizontal area longer than the scutellum and posteriorly rounded. *Rophites* & *Rophitoides* species have metasomal hairs bands and a propodeal horizontal area shorter than the scutellum and forming a clear angle with the posterior face of the propodeum.

Geographical distribution and global diversity

The distribution of this genus is Holarctic, encompassing Europe, Asia and North America. The total number of species is around 130, with 60 species in Eurasia and 70 species in North America (Michener 2007). The Palaearctic distribution reaches north up to Finland and North Africa in the south.



Presence in Europe

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine.

Biology

Seasonal life cycle

They are univoltine and fly in summer. They overwinter as larvae.

Reproduction

Details about their reproduction are not known.

Nesting

They occur in a diversity of habitats. They are solitary and ground-nesting.

Parasites

The only known broodparasite targeting species of *Dufourea* is *Biastes truncatus*.

Floral preferences

Most species are oligolectic. A few species are oligolectic on Asteraceae, while several species are oligolectic on certain Campanulaceae (*Campanula*, *Phyteuma*, *Jasione*). Still, there is at least one polylectic species in the genus, *Dufourea paradoxa*. The length of the mouthparts depends on the species, and is related to their flower preferences.



Type species: *Dufourea minuta* Lepeletier, 1841, by designation of Richards, 1935: 172.

Synonyms: *Halictoides* Nylander, 1848;
Conohalictoides Viereck, 1904; *Neohalictoides* Viereck, 1904;
Cryptohalictoides Viereck, 1904; *Mimulapis* Bridwell, 1919;
Betheliella Cockerell, 1924.

Etymology: the name was selected in honour of Jean-Marie Léon Dufour (1780-1865), a remarkable French entomologist.

Common names:

FR : la dufourée

GER : der Glanzbienen

NL : de glansbijen (=brilliant bees)

EN : the Dufourea

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Dufourea (Dufourea) alpina* Morawitz, 1865
2. *Dufourea (Dufourea) balearica* Ebmer, 2015
3. *Dufourea (Dufourea) coeruleocephala* Morawitz, 1872
4. *Dufourea (Dufourea) cypria* Mavromoustakis, 1952
5. *Dufourea (Dufourea) dentiventris* (Nylander, 1848)
6. *Dufourea (Dufourea) fortunata* Ebmer, 1994
7. *Dufourea (Dufourea) gaullei* Vachal, 1897
8. *Dufourea (Dufourea) graeca* Ebmer, 1976
9. *Dufourea (Dufourea) halictula* (Nylander, 1852)
10. *Dufourea (Dufourea) inermis* (Nylander, 1848)
11. *Dufourea (Dufourea) iris* Ebmer, 1987
12. *Dufourea (Dufourea) longiglossa* Ebmer, 1993
13. *Dufourea (Dufourea) lusitanica* Ebmer, 1999
14. *Dufourea (Dufourea) merceti* Vachal, 1907
15. *Dufourea (Dufourea) minuta* Lepeletier, 1841
16. *Dufourea (Dufourea) paradoxa* (Morawitz, 1867)
17. *Dufourea (Dufourea) similis* Friese, 1898.
18. *Dufourea (Dufourea) styx* (Ebmer, 1976)
19. *Dufourea (Dufourea) trautmanni* Dusmet y Alonso, 1935
20. *Dufourea (Dufourea) wolfi* Ebmer, 1989

References

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