

IDENTIFICATION: German wasp (*Vespula germanica*)
European paper wasp (*Polistes dominula*)

EUROPEAN PAPER WASP

ANTENNAE:

- Orange



ADULT:

- Head and thorax black with yellow spots
- Abdomen yellow with black barring
- Legs yellow
- 12-16mm

NEST:

- Exposed paper nests built above ground
- Found under roof eaves, boulders and on trees



ADULT:

- Head and thorax mostly black
- Abdomen yellow with black markings
- Legs yellow
- 12-17mm

ANTENNAE:

- Black



NEST:

- Concealed paper nests usually built underground

GERMAN WASP

Cape Town Pest Alert

European paper wasp
(*Polistes dominula*)



German wasp
(*Vespula germanica*)

Please report all sightings of invasive wasps to
www.capetowninvasives.org.za

Why are they a problem?

The German wasp and European paper wasps are invasive species that compete with indigenous wasps and other invertebrate species. The German wasp is a significant threat to the grape industry as they are known to cause considerable damage to grapes. Both species are a threat to hikers, vineyard workers and outdoor enthusiasts, as they can be aggressive when disturbed.

How does it spread?

The climate and habitat are suitable to the dispersal of these wasps. It is possible that that may spread to other parts of South Africa.

Don't mistake invasive wasps for:



Indigenous wasp

Indigenous wasps and bees are vitally important to ecosystem functioning and pollination and should never be killed.



African honey-bee

Legal status



NEMBA Category 1b Invader
Remove and Destroy

What does the law say?

Under the National Environment Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), Act 10 of 2004, the German wasp and European paper wasp are designated as Category 1b Invasive Alien Species.

This legislation states that:

- These wasps need to be managed as part of an invasive species control plan.
- Once the control plan has been adopted in an area, no person may relocate or disperse these wasps.

Did you know?

The German wasp was introduced into the Cape Peninsula in 1975. The European paper wasp is a more recent invader and was first recorded in 2008 from the Kuils River area.

Help us protect Cape Town's natural heritage from alien invader wasp species. Sign up online and become a volunteer.
www.capetowninvasives.org.za

Join the Cape Town EDRR Spotter Network



What can I do?

- 1) Sign up to the Spotter Network at www.capetowninvasives.org.za
- 2) Log your sightings on the Spotter Network so we know where the wasps are situated.
- 3) Take note of the date and locality of your invasive wasp sighting.
- 4) If you can't remove it yourself, the Cape Town Invasive Species Unit will send out a team.

For more information, contact: The Cape Town Invasive Species Unit,
Environmental Resource Management, Westlake Conservation
Office, Ou Kaapse Weg, Tokai.
Tel: (021) 444 2356/7
Email: Invasive.Species@capetown.gov.za
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