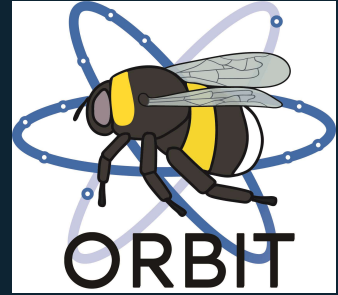




Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Rhophitoides*



Female



Male

Genus: *Rophitoides* Schenck, 1861

Clade: Anthophila

Family: Halictidae

SubFamily: Rophitinae

Tribe: Rophitini

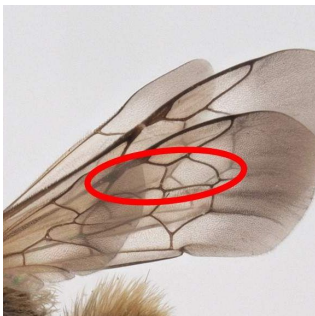
Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 2

Morphology & diagnosis

Rhophitoides are medium-sized bees (7-9mm) with the cuticle entirely black and shiny. They show short clypeus and subantennal sutures, thus the antennae appear abnormally low on the face. They have short tongues. The antennae are short on both females and males. Their wings present two submarginal cells, the tip of the marginal cell tightly attached to the wing margin, and the basal vein shows an angle. The scutellum is longer than the propodeal enclosure. When seen from the side, it forms a characteristic angle with the propodeum. They show bands of hair on the metasoma, light in colour. The antennae segments in males are black and have the same length as breadth. They also show no spine on lateral margins of 6th sternite.

Summary of distinctive traits

- 2 submarginal cells (a)
- Short clypeus so that antennae are inserted below the middle of the eyes (b)
- Females have no frontal spines (c)
- Scutellum longer than the propodeal horizontal area (d)



(a) *Rhophitoides canus*
Male



(b) *Rhophitoides canus*
Male



(c) *Rhophitoides canus*
Female



(d) *Rhophitoides canus*
Female

General comments on identification to species level

In the field they can be identified to genus, but not to species level. Species identification involves criteria on sternites, legs and body sculpture, so legs and wings should be spread out.

Morphologically similar genera, and how to distinguish them

- ***Rhophitoides* - *Rophites***

Rhophitoides species have labial palpi not very elongate, with segments 1-3 about the length of those of maxillary palpi. Females have no frontal spines. Males have antennae with segments about as long as wide.

Rophites species have very elongated labial palpi, with segments 1-3 much longer than those of maxillary palpi. Females have frontal spines. Males have long antennae, with segments distinctly longer than wide.

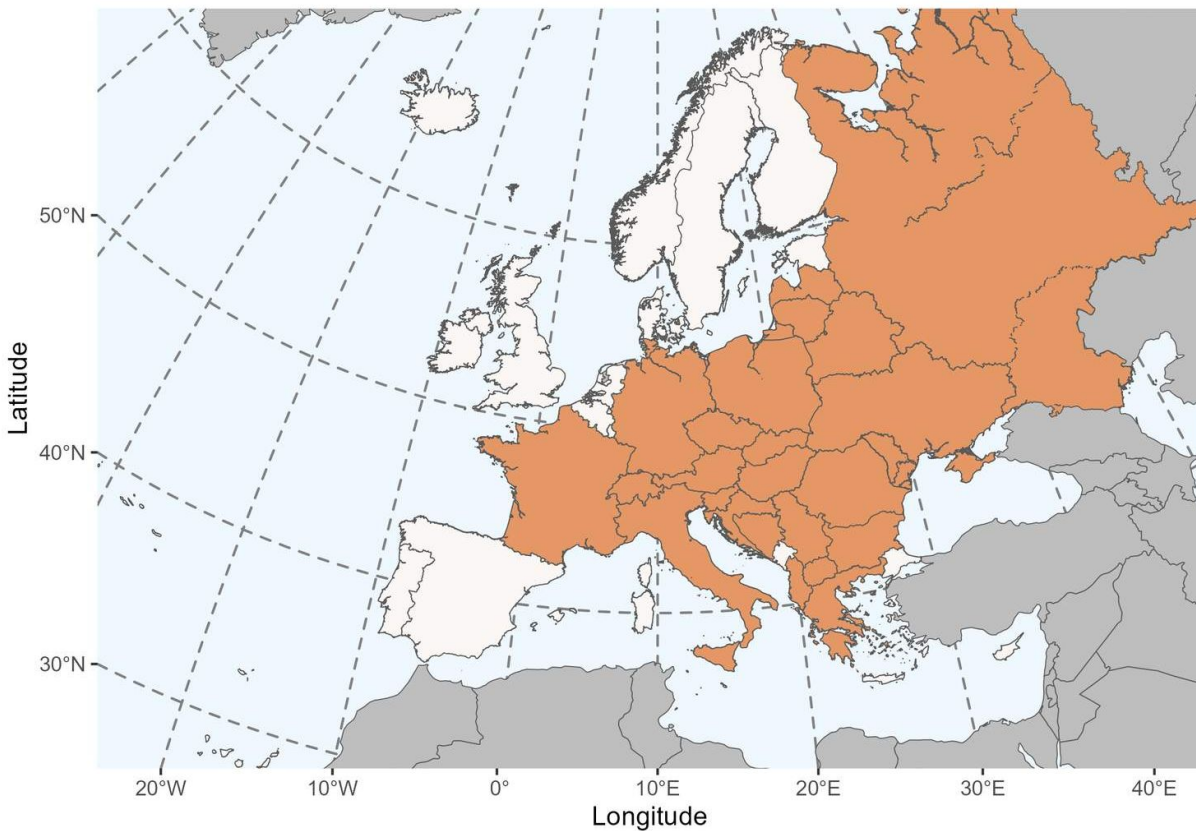
- ***Rhophitoides* - *Dufourea***

Rhophitoides 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.

Dufourea have no metasomal hairs band, and a propodeal horizontal area longer than the scutellum and posteriorly rounded.

Geographical distribution and global diversity

The genus *Rhophitoides* is distributed on the Palearctic region, from Morocco in the west to the Caucasus. The genus counts with around 4 species in total. They occur in warm climates.



Presence in Europe

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France (mainland), Germany, Greece (mainland), Hungary, Italy (excluding Sardinia), Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine.

Biology

Seasonal life cycle

They are summer species and univoltine. They hibernate as larvae.

Reproduction

Mating normally takes place close to the nests, on the ground.

Nesting

They are mainly solitary but rarely show aggregations of nests. They are ground-dwelling.

Parasites

They have no known broodparasite.

Floral preferences

R. canus is oligolectic on Fabaceae, particularly *Medicago sativa* and *Medicago falcata*.



Type species: *Rhopitoides distinguendus* Schenck, 1861 = *Rhopites cana* Eversmann, 1852, monobasic.

Synonyms: n/a

Etymology: The name comes from the Greek root '*rhopitis*', meaning '*swallower, dribbler*', and the suffix '*oides*' meaning '*similar to*', thus in general representing '*similar to Rophites*'.

Common names:

FR: les rophites

GER: der Schlüpf- und Graubienen (= slow bees or grey bees)

NL: de slurfbijen (= slow bees)

EN: the Rophites

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Rhophitoides (Rhophitoides) canus* (Eversmann, 1852)
2. *Rhophitoides (Rhophitoides) epiroticus* Schwammberger, 1975

References

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Attributions

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Scheme (EUPoMS), the Preparatory Action for EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme and Indicators (SPRING project), the Horizon 2020 Europe research projects (POSHBEE, SAFEGUARD), and European National action plans for pollinators.

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