



46. Yellowjackets and Hornets *

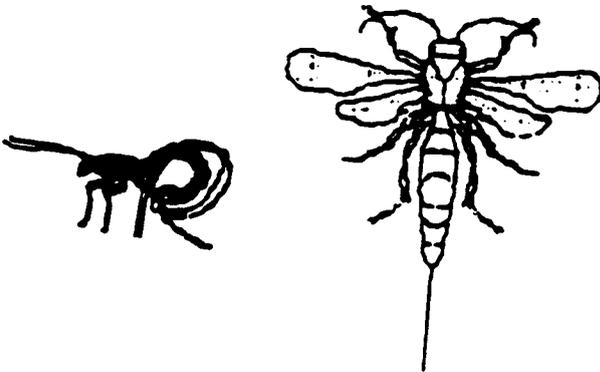
TRAITS: Insects with bright black and yellow or white markings; the third body segment is separated from the middle one by a narrow "waist"; the tip of the abdomen is pointed and has a stinger.

HABITAT: Hornets build paper nests in the ground and in or on trees.

FOODS: Adults feed on flower nectar, ripe fruit, and other insects; they feed their larvae insects, such as caterpillars and flies, meat from dead animals, and nectar.

EATEN BY: Insect-eating birds such as flycatchers and swallows.

"GEE WHIZ": Some hornets pollinate flowers.



47. Ichneumon Wasps *

TRAITS: Insects with long narrow bodies, 4 clear wings of which the hind pair is smaller; antennae are at least half as long as the body; some have a long narrow tail-like structure for egg-laying.

HABITAT: Any habitat where host insects are available.

FOODS: These wasps lay their eggs inside larval sawflies, horntails, butterflies, moths, bees, and spiders; when the larvae hatch, they eat their host.

EATEN BY: Shrews, insect-eating birds such as plovers, sandpipers, buntings, pipits, wagtails, wheatears, flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, warblers, chickadees.

"GEE WHIZ": These wasps are important parasites of immature insects.



48. Bumblebees *

TRAITS: Insects with 4 wings, hind wings much smaller than front ones; hairy body covered with black and yellow or orange markings

HABITAT: Any area with nectar-producing flowers, including alpine and lowland tundra; nests in the ground.

FOODS: Nectar and pollen of flowering plants.

EATEN BY: Shrews, insect-eating birds such as plovers, buntings, longspurs, wagtails, pipits, redpolls, flycatchers, swallows, warblers.

"GEE WHIZ": Bees are important plant pollinators; mites often hitch rides on bees to reach new plants. The dense fur-like hair covering the bodies of bumblebees allows them to retain some of the heat generated by their muscles; thus they can remain active at colder temperatures than other insects.