

Life History of Vespa velutina **Estimations for Temperate Climate**

ecember

Colony Collapse

Reproductive males die shortly after mating, followed by the old queen and workers when temperature decreases over winter. Only foundresses hibernate through the winter.

Octobe

Reproduction

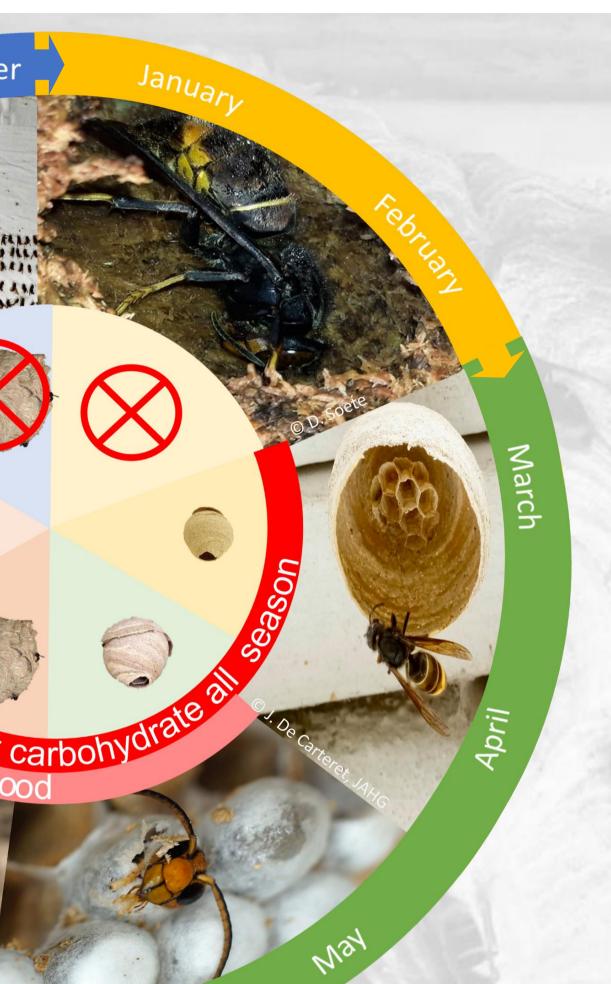
Nests sizes peak in September/ October. A large nest can have upwards of 6,000 hornets and produce between 200 to 500 future queens, and as many males. Male and females mate, then foundresses (fertilised females) leave in search of

suitable places to hibernate.

Nutrition

June

Adults get sugary liquids from honeydew, nectar, honey, etc., and protein from insects including wasps, flies, spiders, and bees.





Hibernation

Queens overwinter in dry, sheltered spaces e.g. under tree bark. Approximately 99% of queens do not survive hibernation. However, only one queen is needed to establish a population.

Nest Building

Queens build papery 'primary nests' and lay eggs in combs. Up to a month later, adult workers emerge and take charge of building and maintaining the nest and feeding the brood. Colonies will relocate if the location is unsuitable.