

Common Wasp

Vespula vulgaris

Impacts

- The sting can be very painful, and unlike a bee which dies after a sting, a wasp can sting many times. A small number of people can suffer a serious (sometimes fatal) allergic reaction to a wasp sting
- They are often found around can drinks and, if not seen, can inflict a painful sting



Exposed nest. Photo: Andrew Darlow



- They are attracted to sugary foods including fruit and this is a major concern for St Helena's bee-keeping and honey producers
- The Wirebird is also at risk as an increase in the number of wasps could impact on the number of insects that are available
- It is possible that the wasp could destroy insect pollinators and endemic invertebrates
- Elsewhere in the world, in particular New Zealand, they are highly invasive and can kill insects and drive birds out of the forest, so we need to be keep a close eye on it here

Actions

- This species needs to be monitored to determine what effect it is having, or can have on St Helena
- Poisons are used to destroy the nests which are very effective, taking only 2-3 days
- If you see a wasp nest, then report it to:
 - o Environmental Health ☎2500 if it is in your house
 - o Or Agriculture and Natural Resources Department ☎4724 if it is out in the wild.



Treatment of a wasp nest.
Photo: Andrew Darlow