

Bumblebees of the World

Layout & Text: Eva Kettl, München, DE

Scientific advice: Prof. Dave Goulson, University of Sussex, UK

Photo: Pieter Haringsma, Delft, NL



Bombus lucorum complex

The term "Bombus lucorum complex" is a reference to the fact that bumblebees - like other wild bees - are often very difficult to distinguish.

The term lucorum complex was named after its most common representative, *Bombus lucorum*. In addition, *Bombus cryptarum* and *B. magnus* also belong to this group.

Scholl and Obrecht coined the term in 1983 to explain the complex of these three taxa, which cannot be easily distinguished from each other on the basis of their morphological characteristics. However, they can be distinguished based on mitochondrial gene sequences and male pheromones.

For example, *B. lucorum* can be identified by the main substance of the male labial gland secretion, ethyltetradec-9-enoate.