

# Crash course on *Andrena cineraria*, *Osmia cornuta* and *Osmia bicornis*



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All reference pictures retrieved from:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157631518508520/>

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# *Andrena cineraria*

- Ground nesting bee
- Honey bee sized
- Black and gray coloration

Thick gray coat with black hair band



Thick, completely black legs!

No hair band!



Thin legs with some white hairs

Slim body shape



# Do NOT confuse with *Andrena vaga*

Bigger and bulkier

NO black hair band!

Female



Legs have white hairs

Abdomen with patches of white hairs

Pure snow white body hair

Male



Bulky, rhomboidal abdomen

Extensively pale haired legs

# Tip!

In side view, the tip of the abdomen of *Andrena vaga* males is strongly down curved



Male

*A. cineraria*  
-straight abdomen



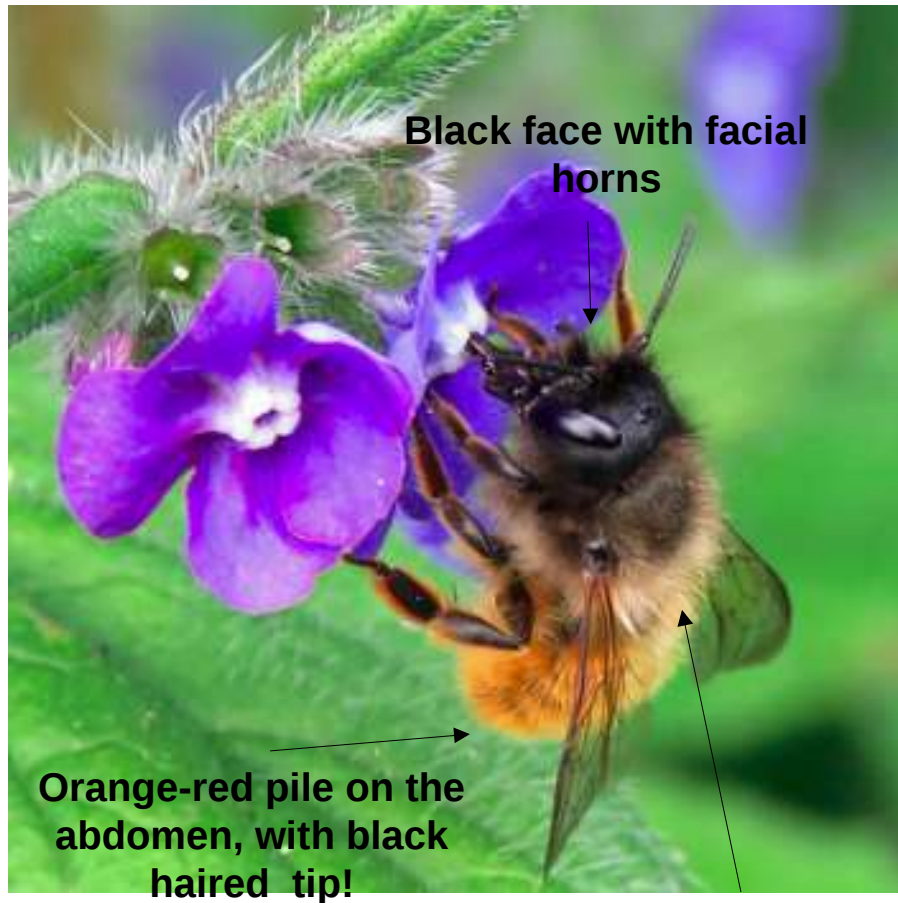
Male

*A. vaga*  
-curved abdomen

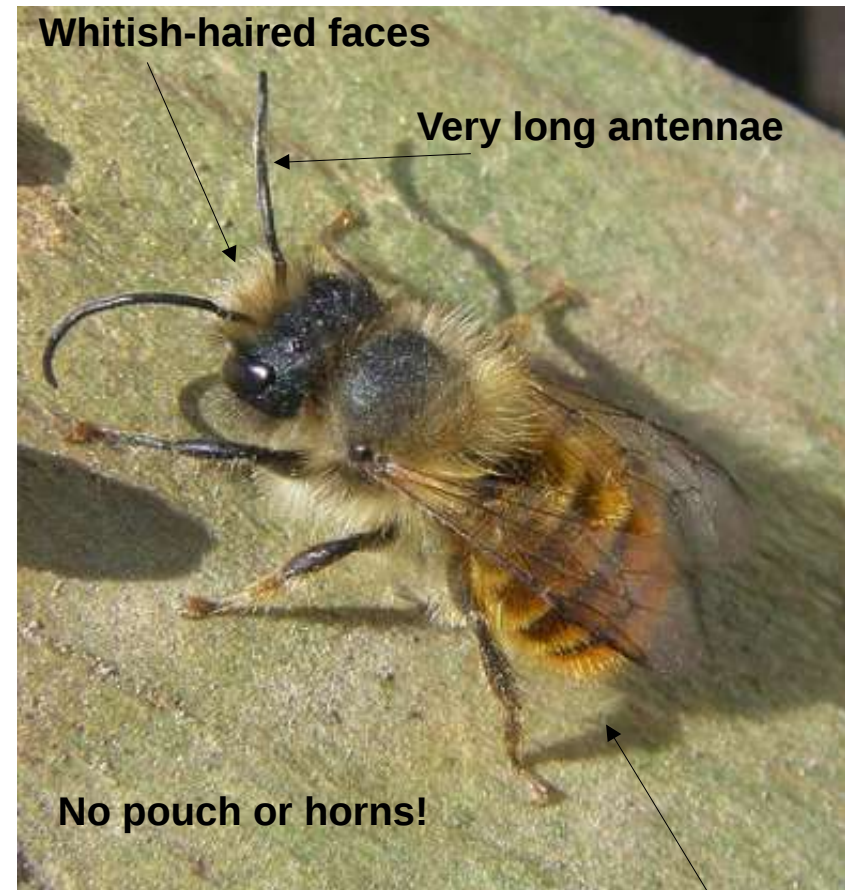


# *Osmia bicornis*

- Large, robust mason bees
- Common species, uses bee hotels
- Females have a pollen pouch underneath the abdomen



Greyish-brown hair pile on the thorax



Same color pattern as female

# Remember: females have pouches and horns!

**Facial horns**



**Pollen pouch**



# *Osmia cornuta*

- Also a mason bee with pollen pouch
- Resembles an oversized *O. bicornis*
- First bees to emerge in spring



# Useful links

Steven Falk's Apoidea album (FLICKR):

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157631518508520>

Munich Botanical Garden website

<https://www.botmuc.de/en/bees/>

Wildbienen.de (in German)

<https://www.wildbienen.de/eb-osmia.htm>



Thanks!