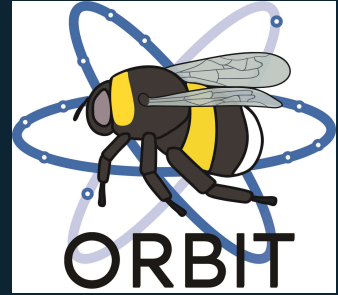




Pollinator Academy

**Genus: *Ancyla***



Female

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Male

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**Genus:** *Ancyla* Lepeletier, 1841

**Clade:** Anthophila

**Family:** Apidae

**SubFamily:** Apinae

**Tribe:** Ancylaini

**Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 5**

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# Morphology & diagnosis

Although part of the long-tongued-bee family Apidae, *Ancyla* are unique because they have a reduced proboscis similar to that of 'short-tongued' bees. Unlike many short-tongued bees, they present a postfurcal nervulus on their anterior wings. Small to medium size (body length 5-10mm). They present a flat clypeus. The wings have three submarginal cells. The scopa is well developed on the hind tibia and basitarsus, comprised of plumose hairs. Males have regular-size antennae.

## Summary of distinctive traits

- Reminiscent in general appearance a small eucerine or anthophorine, but with short mouthparts, labial palpal segments subequal in length as in short tongue bees, and a flat clypeus (a)
- 3 submarginal cells. Submarginal cell 2 with the anterior margin distinctly shorter than the posterior margin, sometimes of equivalent size to that of submarginal cells 1 and 3 (b)
- Jugal lobe of hindwing less than half as long as the vannal lobe (c)
- Males with ordinarily short antennae (d)



(a) *Ancyla nigricornis* Female



(b) *Ancyla nigricornis* Female



(c) *Ancyla nigricornis* Female



(d) *Ancyla holtzi* Male

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# General comments on identification to species level

Criteria for species identification include the colour of scopa and mesosomal hairs, length of vertex, and surface sculpture of tergites of females, and structural modifications of the leg parts and sternites of males.

## Morphologically similar genera, and how to distinguish them

- ***Ancyla - Tarsalia, Eucera, Amegilla & Anthophora***

*Ancyla* species have short mouthparts and unspecialized, uniform labial palpal segments suggesting the Melittidae as well as flat clypeus.

*Tarsalia, Eucera, Amegilla & Anthophora* species have elongated mouthparts and specialized sheath-like, elongated basal palpal segments as well as protuberant clypeus.

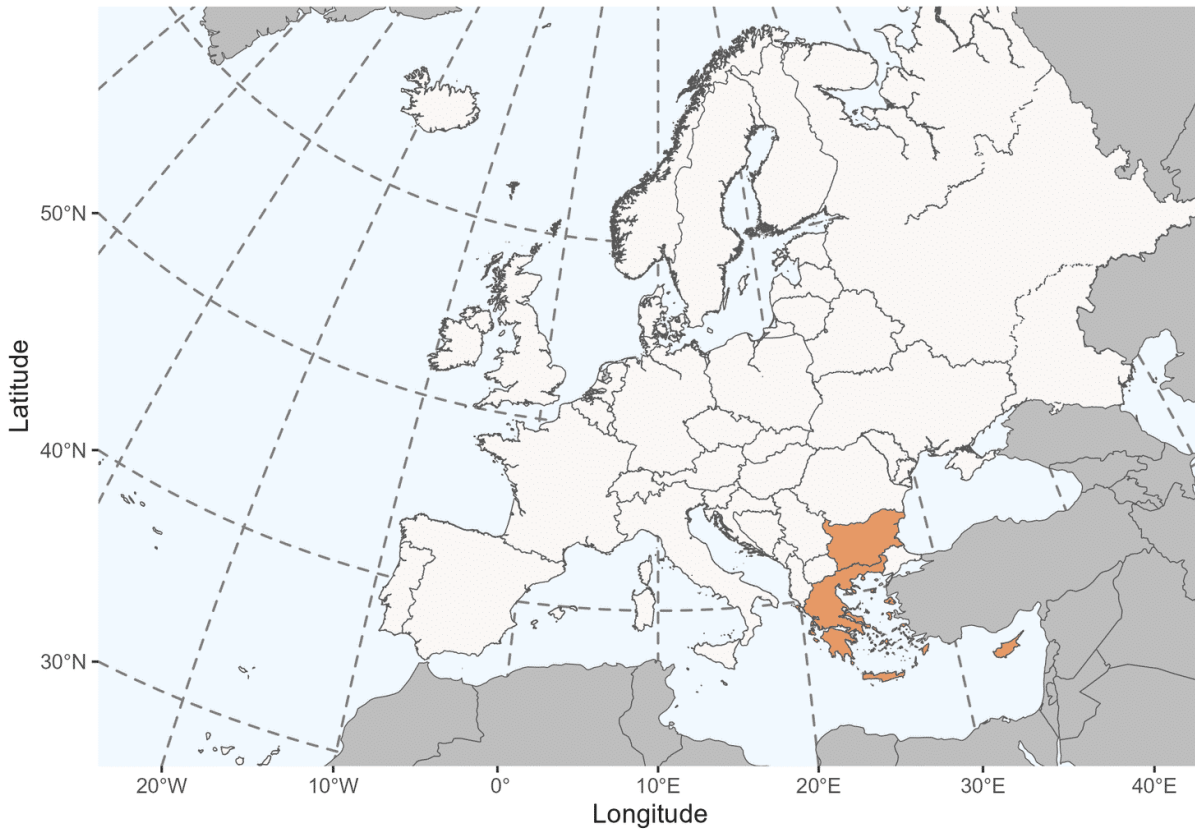
- ***Ancyla - Melitta***

*Ancyla* species have a postfurcal nervulus. Their second submarginal cell is subtriangular, its anterior part less than half as long as the posterior part.

*Melitta* species have a prefurcal nervulus. Their second submarginal cell is smaller but almost rectangular, its anterior part clearly longer than half of the posterior part.

# Geographical distribution and global diversity

This genus is relatively uncommon in the world and is represented by only 9 described species. Their distribution is the Mediterranean basin to southwestern Asia and Iran in the east, and Sudan in the south.



## Presence in Europe

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece.

# Biology

The biology of this genus is not well-known.

## Seasonal life cycle

They are summer species and generally univoltine.

## Reproduction

The copula takes place on flowers of host plants (Straka & Rozen, 2012).

## Nesting

They are ground-dwelling species (Straka & Rozen, 2012).

## Parasites

Species of the genus *Ammobates* are the only known brood parasites of this genus (Popov 1967).

## Floral preferences

Their foraging ecology is not well described, but they appear to be oligolectic on Apiaceae (Straka & Rozen 2012).



**Type species:** *Ancyla oraniensis* Lepeletier, 1841, monobasic.

**Synonyms:** *Plistotrichia* Morawitz, 1874.

**Etymology:** *Ancyla*, from the Greek ankýla = shank

**Common names:** n/a

## List of species found in Europe:

1. *Ancyla (Ancyla) asiatica* Friese, 1922
2. *Ancyla (Ancyla) cretensis* Friese, 1902

3. *Ancyla (Ancyla) holtzi* Friese, 1902
  4. *Ancyla (Ancyla) nigricornis* Friese, 1902
  5. *Ancyla (Ancyla) orientalis* Warncke, 1979
- 

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Popov, V.B. 1967. The bees (Hymenoptera, Apoidea) of Middle Asia and their associations with angiosperm plants. Trudy Zoologiceskzo Instituta Akademija Nauk SSSR (Leningrad [St. Petersburg]) 38: 11-329.

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Straka, J. and Rozen, J.G.Jr. 2012. First observations on nesting and immatures of the bee genus *Ancyla* (Apoidea: Apidae: Apinae: Ancylaini). *American Museum Novitates* 3749: 1-24.

Warncke, K. 1979. Beiträge zur Bienenfauna des Iran: 10. Die Gattung *Ancyla* LEP., mit einer Revision der Bienengattung *Ancyla* LEP. Boll. Mus. Civ. Stör. Nat., Venezia 30: 183-195.

## Attributions

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