Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Ceylalictus*

Female

Male

Genus: *Ceylalictus* Strand, 1913

Clade: Anthophila

Family: Halictidae

SubFamily: Nomioidinae

Tribe: Nomioidini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 1

Morphology & diagnosis

Ceylalictus are very small yellow and metallic bees (3-6mm). The cuticle is mainly yellow in the face, legs and metasoma, with yellow markings on the mesosoma. The rest of the body is dark or brown, mostly with metallic reflections. They have short tongues. The clypeus is trilobed, with a deep notch between the central and the lateral lobes. The forewings have three submarginal cells, and the stigma is very developed (> ½ length marginal cell). The metasoma is dark but shows yellow bands on the disc of the tergites. Males lack the sclerotized apical lobe of sternite 8.

Summary of distinctive traits

- Very small size (<6 mm), yellow and metallic colour pattern (a)
- 3 submarginal cells (b)
- Curved basal vein (c)
- Posterior margin of T2 brown or dark, not translucent, so that the base of T3 is masked (d)

(a) *Ceylalictus variegatus* Female

(b) *Ceylalictus variegatus* Female

(c) *Ceylalictus variegatus* Female

(d) *Ceylalictus variegatus* Female

General comments on identification to species level

No specific preparation needed for this genus as there is only one species in Europe.

Morphologically similar genera, and how to distinguish them

- ***Ceylalictus*** - ***Nomioides***
  Ceylalictus species have a black or brown T2 posterior margin masking the basal part of T3. Males have no sclerotized apical process on their sternite 8.
  Nomioides species have a yellow translucent posterior part of T2, revealing the basal part of T3 underneath. Males have a sclerotized apical process on their sternite 8.

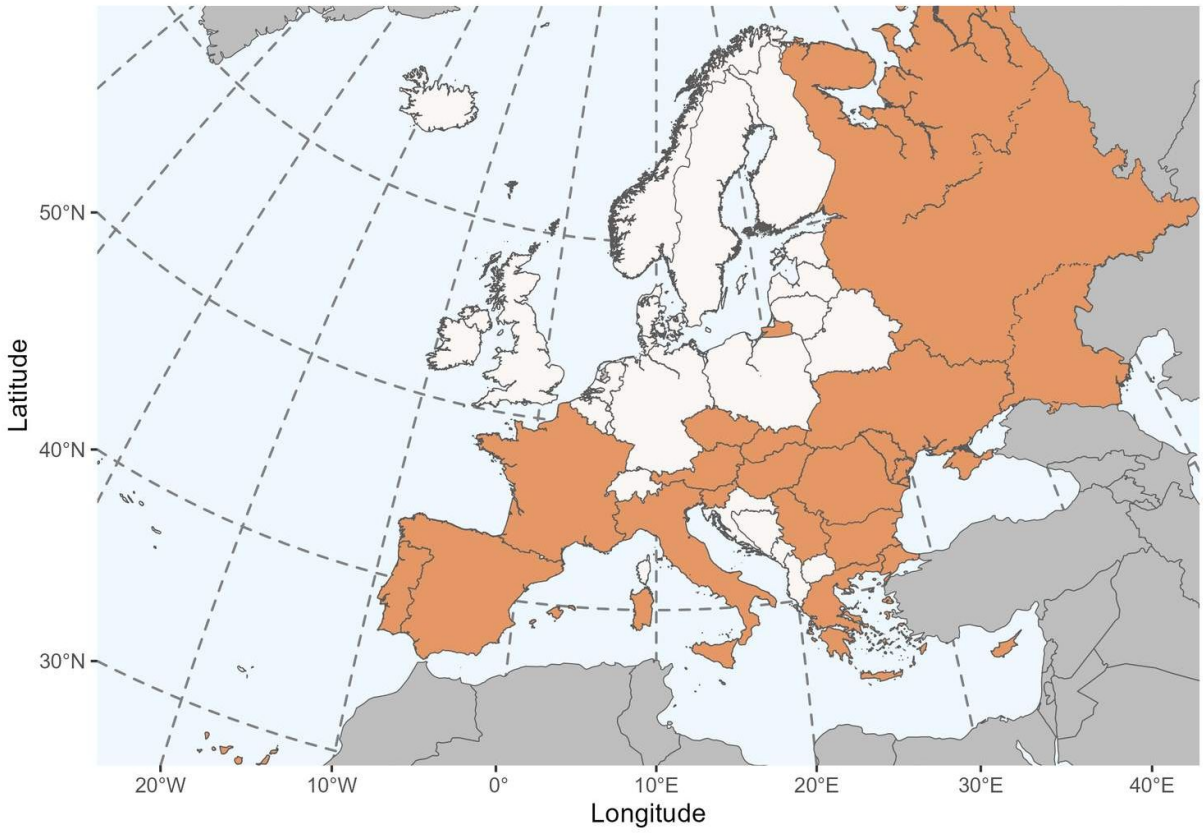
- ***Ceylalictus* - *Halictus, Lasioglossum* & *Seladonia***
  Ceylalictus species are very small with a marginal cell rounded to truncated. Females have no furrow on T5.
  Halictus, Lasioglossum & *Seladonia* species are much larger with a marginal cell pointed. Females have a furrow on T5.

- ***Ceylalictus* - *Camptopoeum***
  Ceylalictus species have three submarginal cells and the basal vein curved.
  Camptopoeum species have two submarginal cells and the basal vein is straight.

Geographical distribution and global diversity

Most species of the genus *Ceylalictus* are found in the Palaeotropical region (Pesenko & Pauly, 2005). There are in total 28 species, from which only one occurs in Europe.

Three subgenera have been recognized at the global scale: *Atronomioides*, Ceylalictus s. str. and *Meganomioides*.



Presence in Europe

Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France (except Corsica), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Moldova, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine.

Biology

Seasonal life cycle

This is a summer species, probably univoltine in Europe. They overwinter as adults.

Reproduction

Males seem to mate with females on nesting sites (Rust et al. 2004).

Nesting

Ceylalictus are ground-dwelling species, nesting in flat, sandy soils with sparse vegetation. They are solitary, although communal nests have been reported in India (Batra, 1966). They nest in aggregations. Their nest entrance is a small tumulus, the burrow is first oblique then becomes vertical. The cells are located a few centimeters in the soil, connected to this vertical burrow by lateral ones. Unlike the burrows, they are lined with waterproof, wax-like secretions.

Parasites

In eastern Europe, nests may be attacked by *Chiasmognathus orientanus*.

Floral preferences

They are polylectic.

Type species: *Halictus horni Strand, 1913, monobasic.*

Synonyms: n/a

Etymology: The name is a combination of the name of the genus Halictus and the name Ceylon.

Common names:
FR: les nomioïdes
GER: der Steppenbienen (= bee of the steppes)

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Ceylalictus* (*Ceylalictus*) *variegatus* Olivier, 1789

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Attributions

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