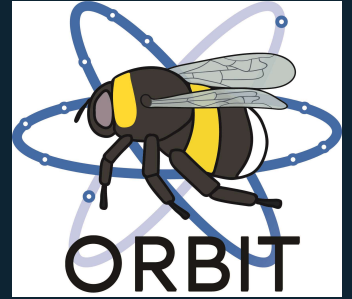




Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Ensliniana*



Female



Male

Genus: *Ensliniana* Alfken, 1938

Clade: Anthophila

Family: Megachilidae

SubFamily: Megachilinae

Tribe: Dioxyini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 1

Morphology & diagnosis

Ensliniana are medium sized brood parasitic bees (7-9mm). They are morphologically similar to all the genera of the tribe Dioxyni. The mandible is bidentate. The forewings bear two submarginal cells, and the second recurrent vein interfurcal. Both metanotum and scutellum show a rounded shape. Females, as brood parasitic bees, don't have ventral scopa.

Summary of distinctive traits

- 2 submarginal cells (a)
- Females without scopa (brood parasitic bees) (b)
- Bidentate mandible (c)
- Scutellum and metanotum rounded (d)



(a) *Ensliniana bidentata*
Female



(b) *Ensliniana bidentata*
Female



(c) *Ensliniana bidentata*
Female



(d) *Ensliniana bidentata*
Female

General comments on identification to species level

In this case, as there is only one species within this genus, the separation is to be made between the different genera of the same tribe that are very similar morphologically. Male determination is done using the genitalia, thus this should be extracted. Female determination is done on the base of the labrum, mesoscutellum, sternites and tergites. They have to be made visible, along with opening the mandibles and separating the antennae from the head.

Morphologically similar genera, and how to distinguish them

- ***Ensliniana* - *Aglaoapis*, *Dioxys*, *Metadioxys* & *Paradioxys***

Ensliniana species have a rounded scutellum and metanotum.

Aglaoapis, *Dioxys*, *Metadioxys* & *Paradioxys* species have a scutellum with two postero-lateral spines and may have a median spine or tubercle on the metanotum.

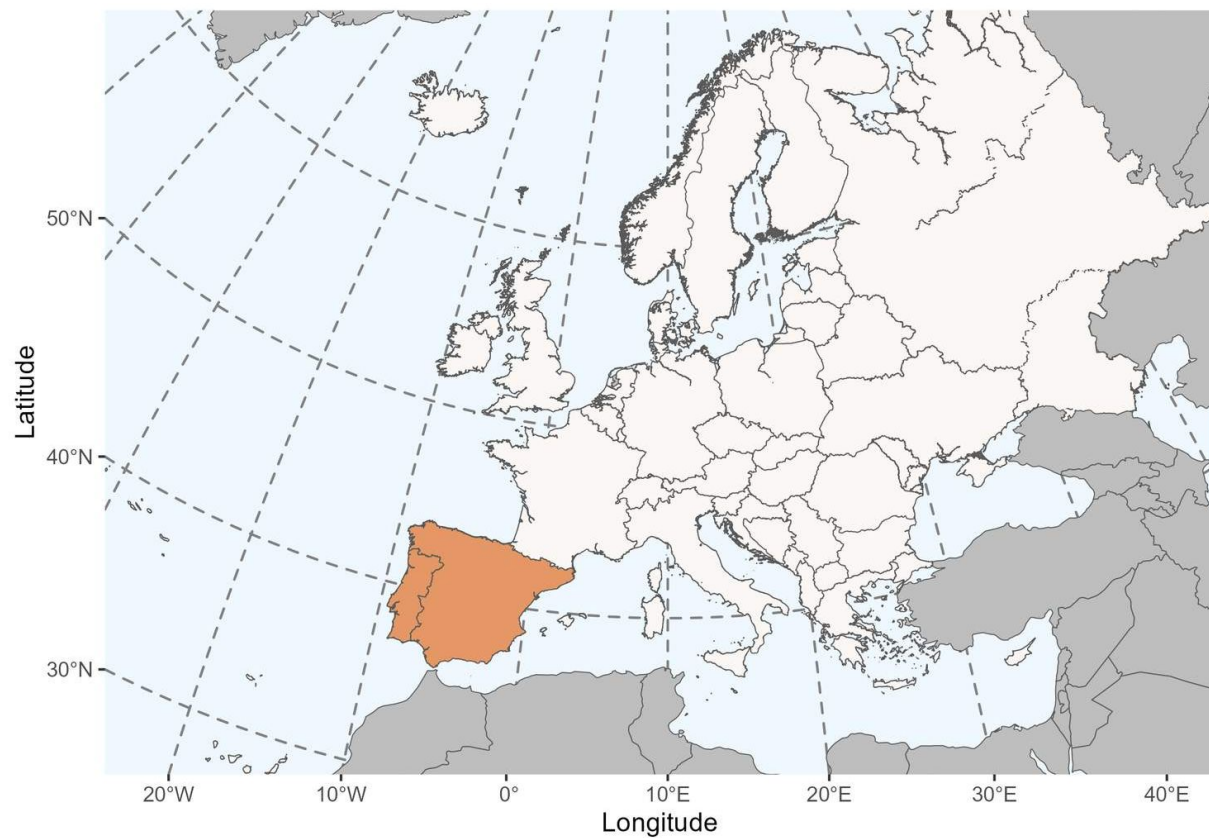
- ***Ensliniana* - *Stelis* & *Trachusa***

Ensliniana species have the second recurrent vein reaching within the second submarginal cell.

Stelis & *Trachusa* species have the second recurrent vein reaching at or beyond (apically) to the second submarginal cell.

Geographical distribution and global diversity

The genus occurs from North Africa, Israel, Syria to Turkmenistan. There are probably three species (Michener 2007).



Presence in Europe

Portugal, Spain

Biology

Seasonal life cycle

They are spring species, flying up to mid summer.

Reproduction

As in most cases in solitary bees, the copula occurs close to where the individuals emerge, commonly on vegetation or on the ground (Bergmark et al., 1984), and it lasts a few seconds.

Nesting

The females never build their own nest: they exclusively depend on ground-nesting bees and their nests for reproduction. Then, the females are constantly patrolling the area searching nests of their host species. Once the hosts leave their nest to forage, they infiltrate into the host nests where they lay an egg on the reserves of food that the host has prepared for its own descendants. The members of the tribe Dioxyini show the distinctive trait of having an atrophiated sting, quite rare being brood parasitic bees that have to fight with the owners of the nests they parasitize. The small larva kills the host larva or egg with its long and sharp jaws and then eats the food that was collected for the host.

Host species

The host species have not been described for this genus, but they probably are species of the genera *Osmia* or *Hoplitis*. The only European species possibly attacks nests of *Hoplitis zaianorum*.

Floral preferences

As brood parasitic bees, the females do not actively collect pollen to feed their larvae. Males and females are then seen visiting a diversity of flowers from which they collect the nectar and a small quantity of pollen for their own consumption. However, as their host bee is in some cases specialized on certain plant species, then they are therefore also automatically specialized on this plant, as their larvae only consumes the food resources accumulated by its hosts.



Type species: *Ensliniana cuspidata* Alfken, 1938 = *Stelis bidentata* Friese, 1899, by original designation.

Synonyms: *Dioxoides* Popov, 1947.

Common names: n/a

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Ensliniana (Ensliniana) bidentata* Friese, 1899

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