

## European hornet

**Latin name : *Vespa crabro***

**Size : 4 cm**

**Lifespan : up to 5 years for the queens**

The European Hornet can be impressive in its size - you can hear it coming from far away! Be aware that it is not dangerous... as long as you do not attack its nest. It is carnivorous and eats mainly flies. It may also attack other insects, such as butterflies, wasps, caterpillars, grasshoppers, locusts and, rarely, bees. Towards the end of summer, it may also eat ripe fruit.



In Germany, the European Hornet is a protected species and you can be fined if you destroy their nest! They're scary, but the right thing to do is ignore them... which isn't easy to do! If you have the lights on at night, they become disorientated and are attracted. If he enters the room, leave the door open so he can get out. Remember to close bedroom doors to avoid unpleasant surprises. If a hornet gets stuck in a room in the evening, you'll find it dead the next morning...