

Latin name : Poliste Dominulus

Size : 14 to 16 mm

Paper Wasp

This is one of the most common wasps in France. They can be identified by their flight and in particular their long yellow legs stretched out at the back. They look like flying dancers! Their sting is invisible because it can be retracted. They are useful for eating caterpillars.



Their nests are parasol-shaped and usually face downwards, attached to the substrate by a thin stalk made of fairly thin paper (wood pulp) and never covered by an envelope. Despite its fragile appearance, this aerial nest is very resistant. It rarely exceeds the size of an open hand and contains between 15 and 200 individuals. It can be found just about anywhere! They can be found stuck under tiles (as in sanitary facilities), under the lids of rubbish bins or on the branches of shrubs.

They are not aggressive but will protect their nest. If you approach, a sentinel will position itself at the top of the nest and spread its wings, ready to pounce. This is a sign not to be taken lightly, so keep moving!