



Infrastructure
and Environment

Inter-Island Environment Meeting Sept 2023

Asian Hornets

Where we are, and where do we go next?

Alastair Christie

Senior Scientific Officer – Invasive Species

28th Sept 2023

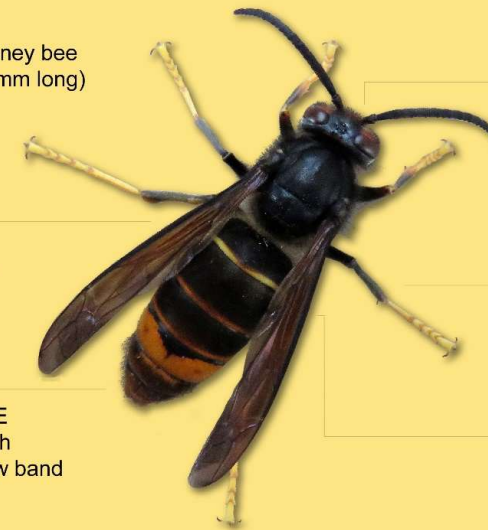


How to Identify Asian Hornets

Size: larger than a honey bee
or wasp (20mm to 30mm long)

Body: velvety black/
dark brown mid body

Rear: KEY FEATURE
mainly dark brown with
distinct mustard/yellow band



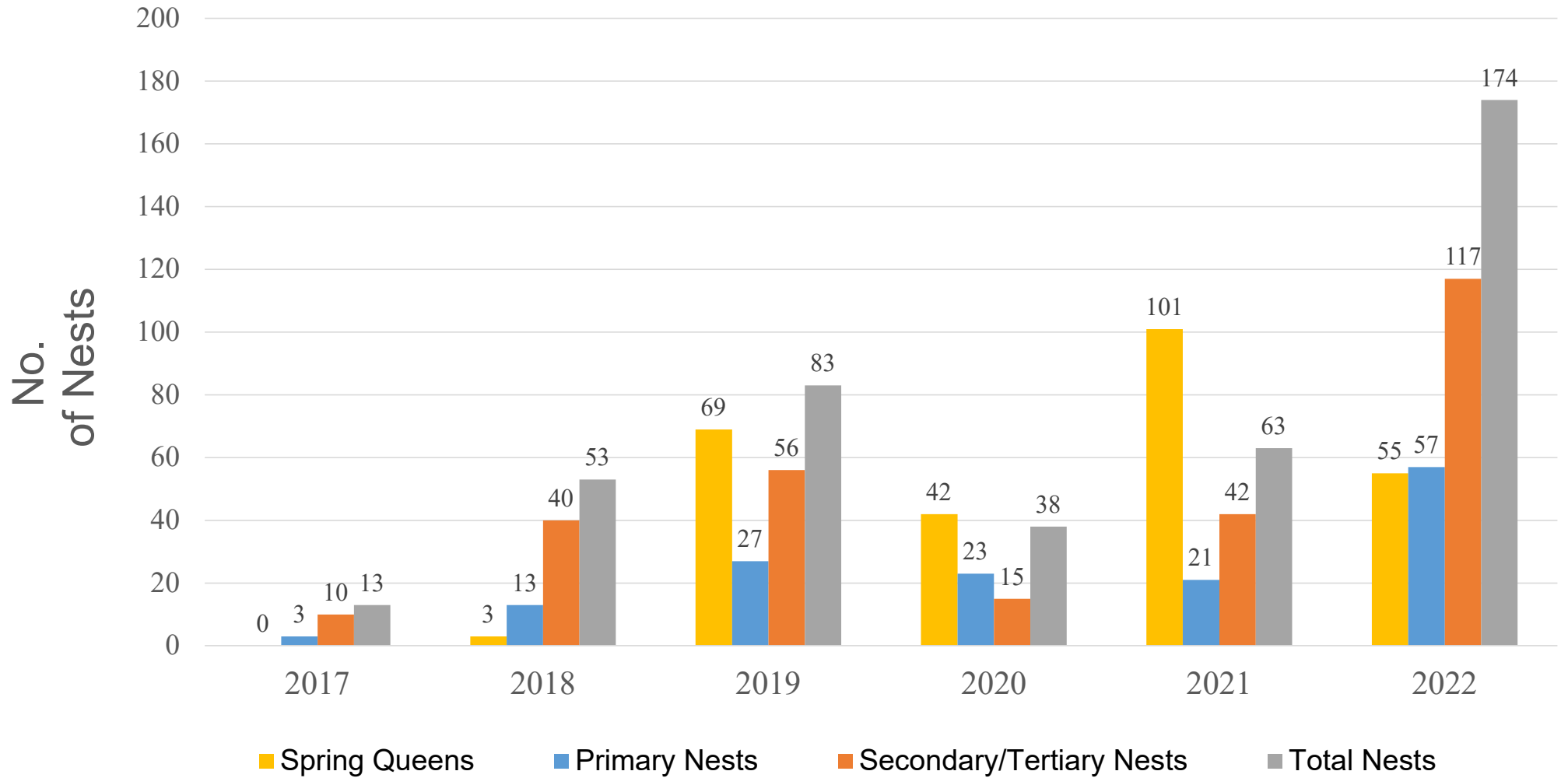
Head: Black with
orange/yellow face

Legs: brown upper
part with distinct
yellow lower leg

Waist: fine, bright
yellow "belt"

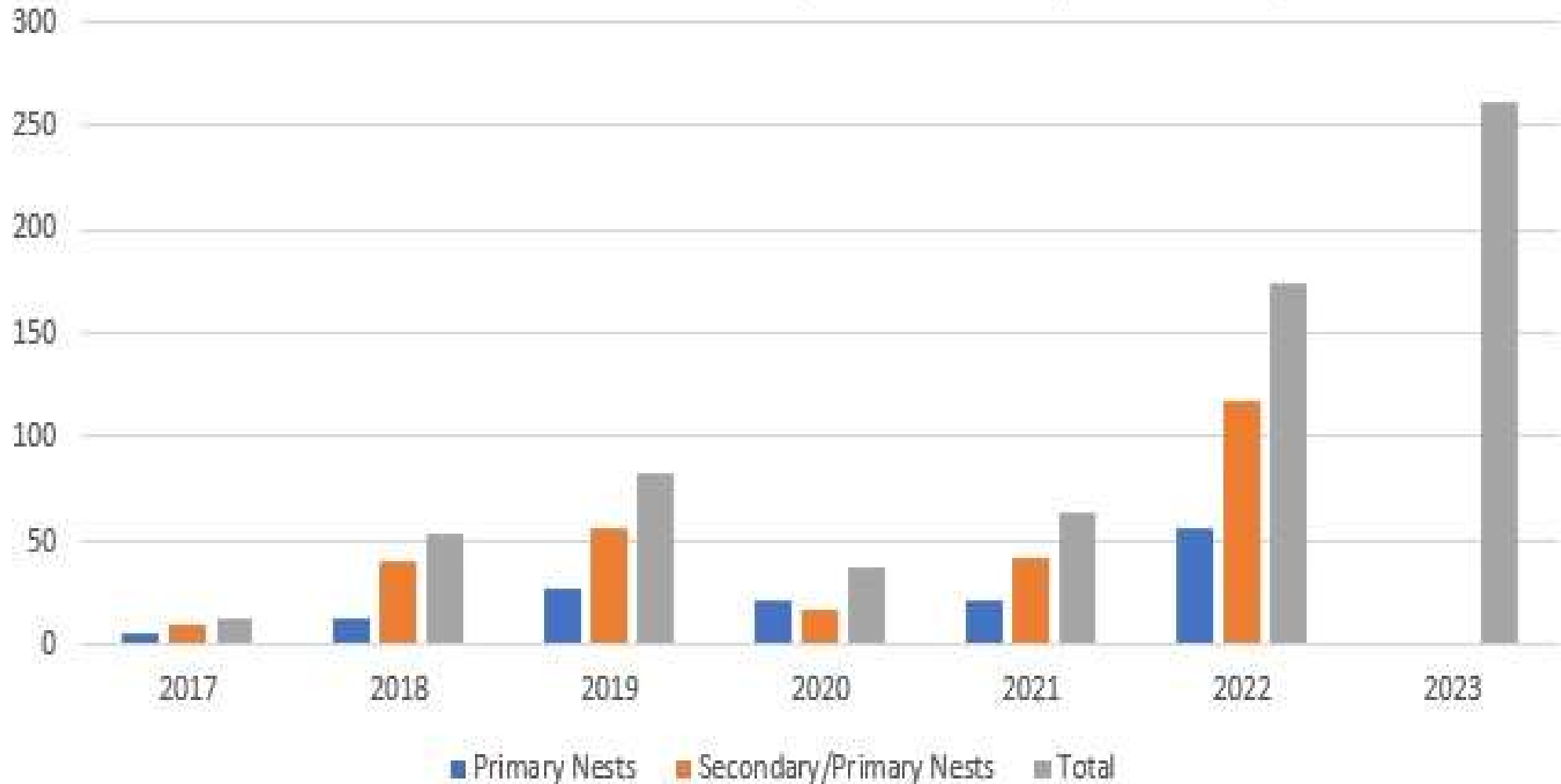
Gouvernement d'Jèrri

Nos. of Spring Queens & Nests in Jersey 2017 - 2022

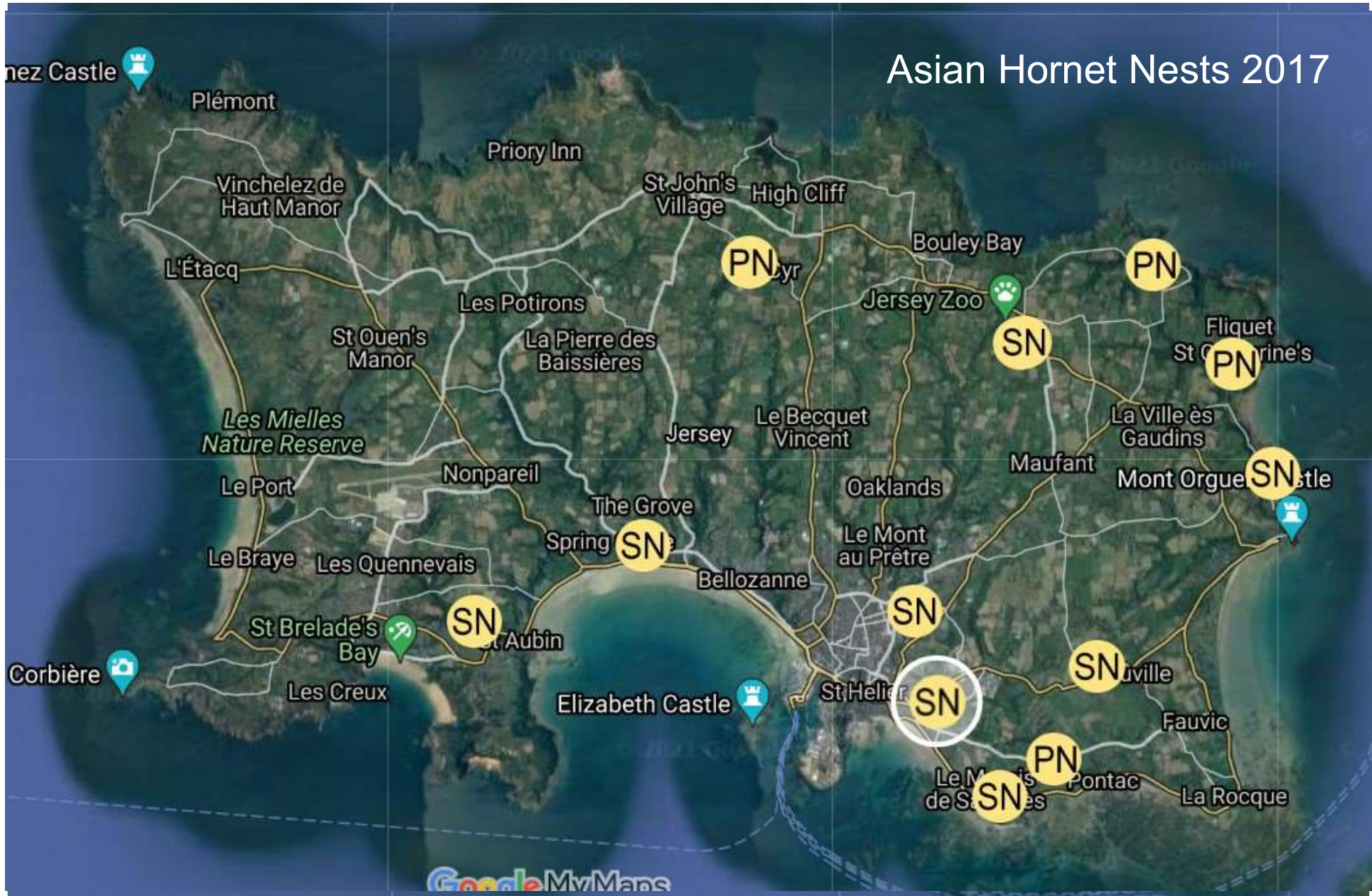




Asian Hornet Nest Numbers in Jersey 2017 - 2023 (to 26/09/23)



Asian Hornet Nests 2017



Asian Hornet Nests 2018



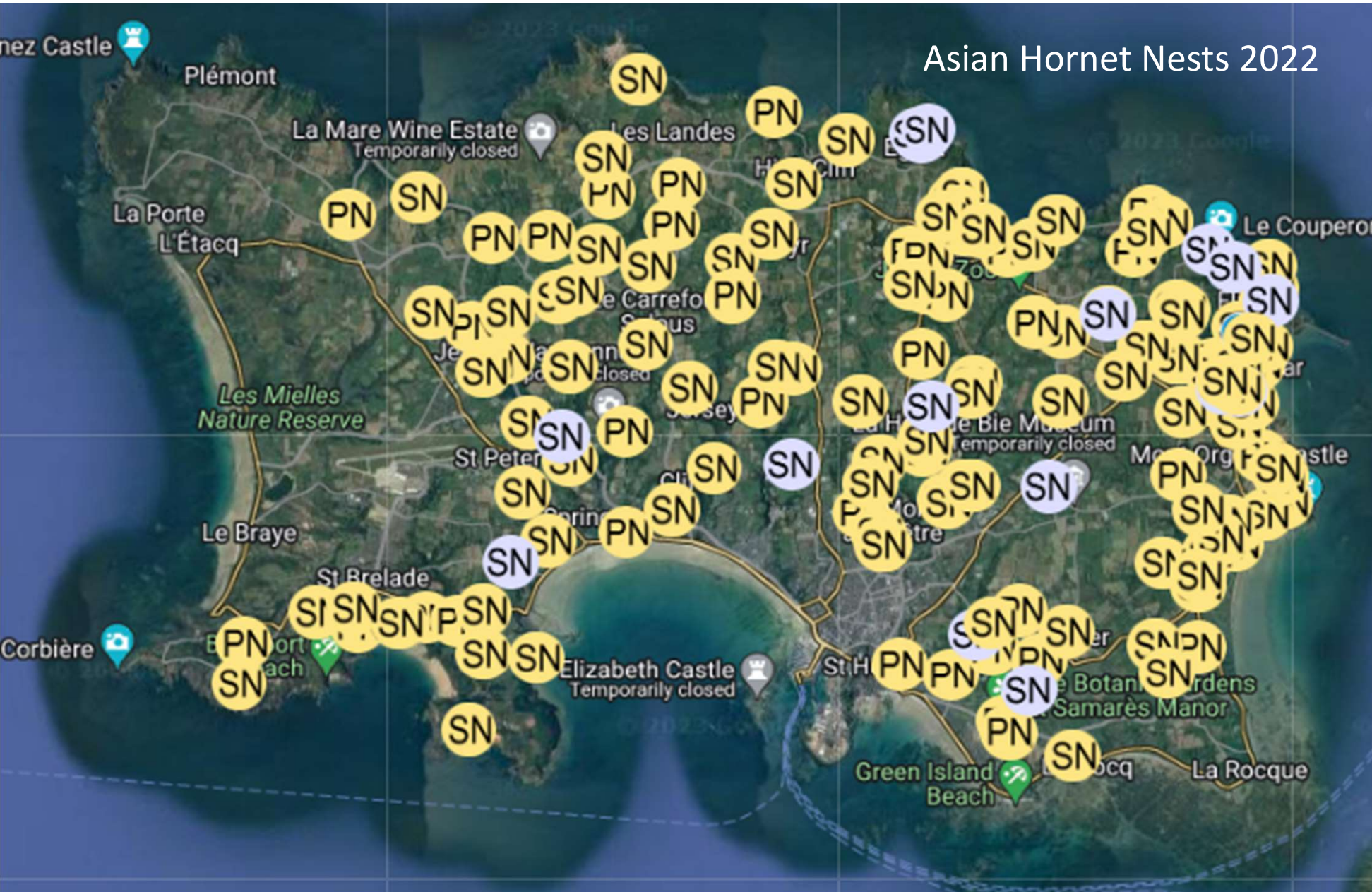
Asian Hornet Nests 2019



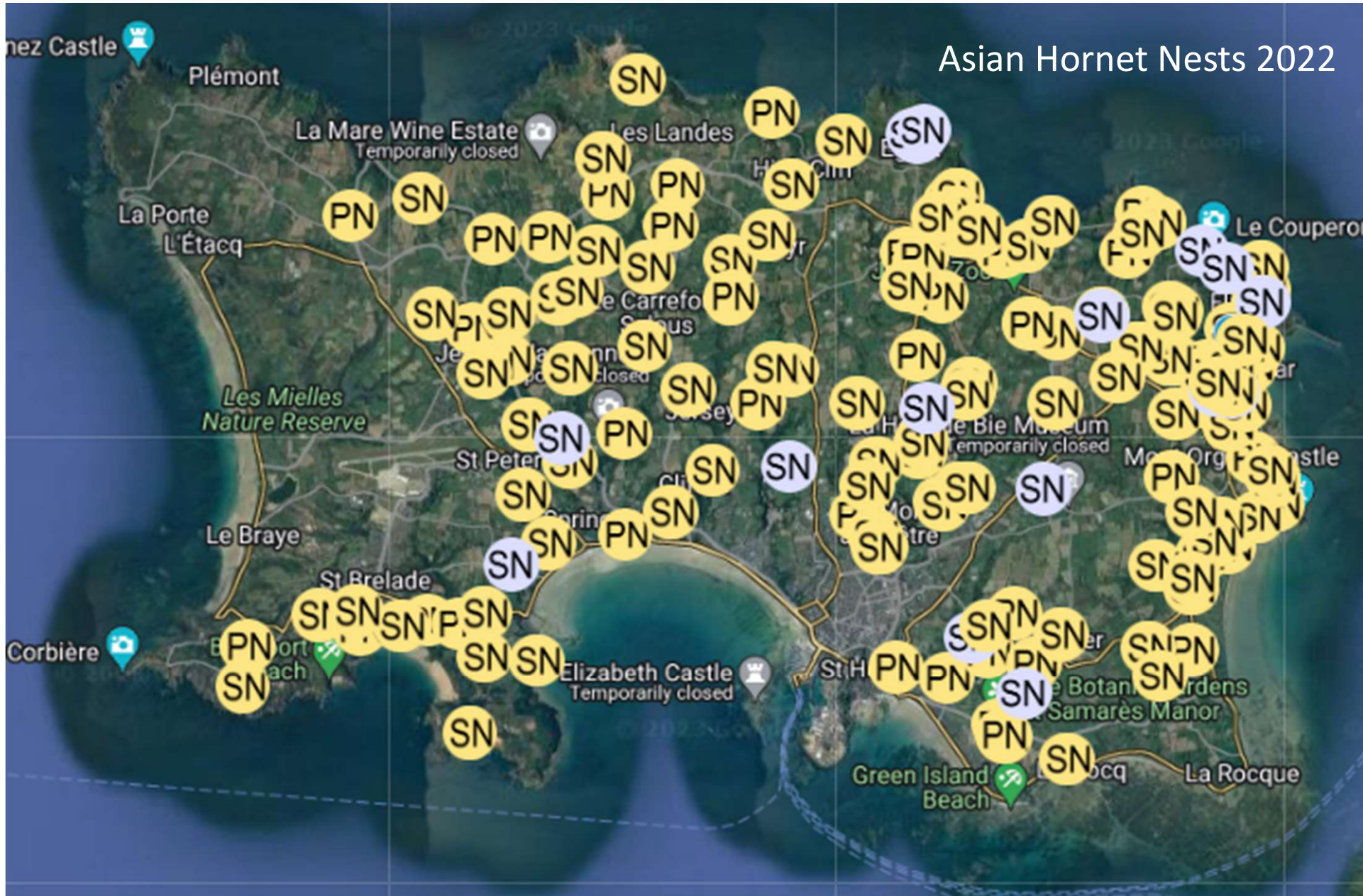
Asian Hornet Nests 2021



Asian Hornet Nests 2022



Asian Hornet Nests 2022

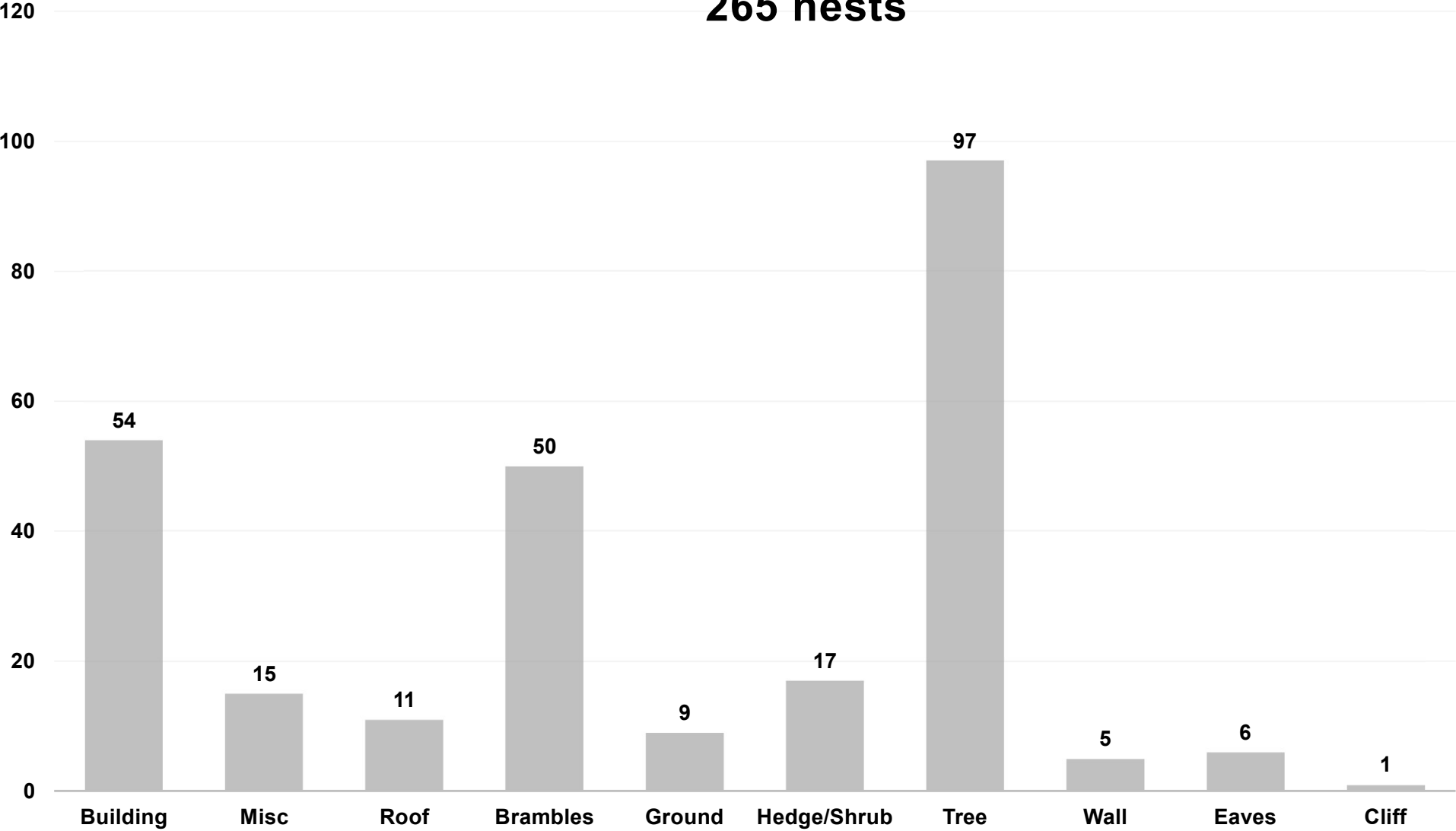


Asian Hornet Nests 2023



Nest Locations 2023

265 nests





Asian Hornet Management in Jersey

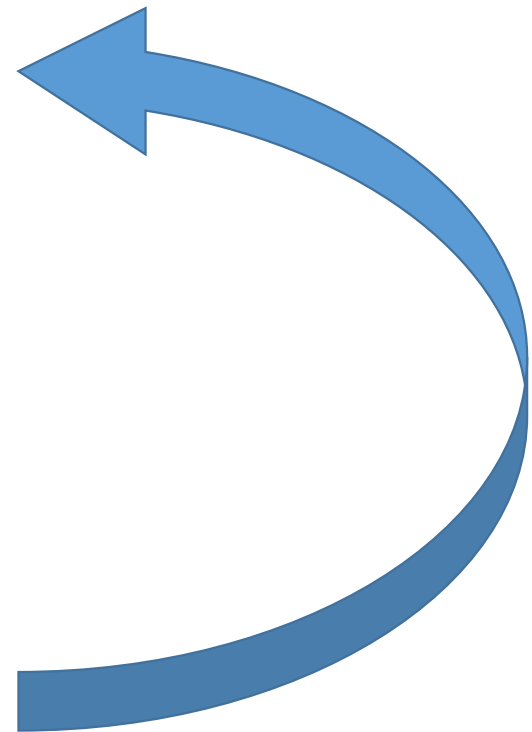
- Coordinator
- Public Awareness
- Reporting and Recording
- Spring Queen Trapping
- Tracking
- Nest Destruction
- Research .. Community Science



Long Term Management

Could we maintain sufficient control?

- Ability to find majority of nests by early October before release of the virgin queens
- Numbers of nests on Cotentin Peninsular not destroyed before the release of gynes?
- Survival rate of overwintering queens
- Prevalence of easterly winds in April/May
- Ability to trap/catch as many emerging local and blown-in queens as possible
- Continued public awareness, getting in reliable reports as early as possible
- Enough skilled tracking resources (volunteers) to find and destroy the nests in time



Impacts of Asian Hornets



- Ecological
 - Honey bees
 - Other pollinators – wasps, wild & solitary bees, flies ...
- Economic
 - Cost of control – Govt & JAHG volunteers
 - Cost of nest destruction
 - Other economies
- Human health
 - Stings



Where do we go next?

Extremes:

- Do as we have been doing .. May be even better .. More traps, more trackers
- Cancel the programme ..

Other Options:

- Not receive public reports of individual insects ... replace with monitored traps
- Leave (but continue to fund) the JAHG to manage themselves and track nests

Destruction:

- Continue to do our best to destroy all of them – never not got one yet!
- Treat only those considered a “risk”

- Discussion with stakeholders this early winter.



Thank You

Alastair Christie
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28th Sept 2023

NEWS Hornet team urge public to kill native hoverflies by mistake

Harmless pollinators 'caught in crossfire' of fight against invasive species

By James Jeune

HARMLESS hoverflies are getting 'caught in the crossfire' in the fight against Asian hornets – as the number of nests found in the island continues to rise. Alastair Christie, Jersey's Asian hornet co-ordinator, said that Islanders were mistaking native hoverflies – a native pollinator – for the invasive species, being sent to his team in false reports of hornet nests. "The vast majority of people are sending me pictures, in which case I am able to tell them to release it – but inevitably some of these hoverflies are getting swatted and killed," he said.

How to identify Asian hornets and mimic hoverflies

ASIAN HORNET
(*Vespa velutina nigritorax*)



- **BODY:** Dark in colour – black/dark brown.
- **REAR: KEY FEATURE** – dark brown with only the fourth segment in yellow/orange. Tip of bottom is dark.
- **LEGS:** Brown upper part with distinct yellow lower leg.

- **WAIST:** Fine, bright yellow 'belt' near to a pinched waist.
- **HEAD:** Black head with orange/yellow face. Dark antennae.
- **SHAPE:** Sleek, with four wings.

HORNET MIMIC HOVERFLY
(*Volucella zonaria*)



- **BODY:** Chocolate brown in colour.
- **REAR:** Broad-striped yellow/black. Tip of bottom is brighter yellow.
- **LEGS:** Brown legs.
- **WAIST:** No obvious pinched waist.

- **HEAD: KEY FEATURE** – distinctive bright yellow stripe up the front of the face. Large compound eyes. No antennae.
- **SHAPE:** Fatter, slightly velvety, with two wings.

the same period in 2019. Almost 50% have been discovered in St. Martin, although these were recently spotted and removed from the General Hospital.

Mr Christie added: "I started a couple of weeks ago, but now every day the number of mimic hoverflies being reported far outweighs the number of Asian hornets being correctly identified. There is a fair amount of misidentification improving, and if we could improve this it would save some time and save some hoverflies."

West asked how the rest of the season was developing, and he said: "The work is ongoing and we have tracking significantly down on nests from last year, and we could see some catch-up happening as it is a later season as I am confident we will have fewer nests, although I am not sure."

He added that he should not be reporting any sightings if he is sure. "I would have no idea if the hornet nests found so far this year, compared to 29 this time in 2020 and 23 for

which we would like to avoid!"

"There have been 19 Asian

