

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Gilles Gonthier, Flickr

Common Name: Aerial Yellow Jacket

Scientific Name: *Dolichovespula arenaria*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera: Vespidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Creamy white and legless.
Adult	12.7 mm Forewing length 12 - 13 mm (queen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yellow and black bands on the abdomen.● Yellow legs.● Antennae black dorsally and yellow ventrally.● Workers with elongated black clypeal spot, sometimes with small spots on each side.● Wings folded longitudinally while at rest.
Pupa (if applicable)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Generally wasp shaped with appendages held close to body.● Creamy white in early development, darkened later in development.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s: Aerial yellow jackets hunt live insects, including pear psylla, but will also feed on carrion. In late summer, workers may scavenge for sugary substances.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Aerial yellow jackets do not typically cause damage, but present a serious stinging risk due to their aggressive defensive behavior near their nests.

References:

Akre, R. D., Greene, A., MacDonald, J. F., Landolt, P. J., & Davis, H. G. (1981). The yellowjackets of America north of Mexico.

Kimsey, L., & Carpenter, J. (2012). The Vespinae of North America (Vespidae, Hymenoptera). *Journal of Hymenoptera Research*, 28, 37-65. doi:10.3897/jhr.28.3514

Southern Yellowjackets. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://texasinsects.tamu.edu/southern-yellowjackets/>