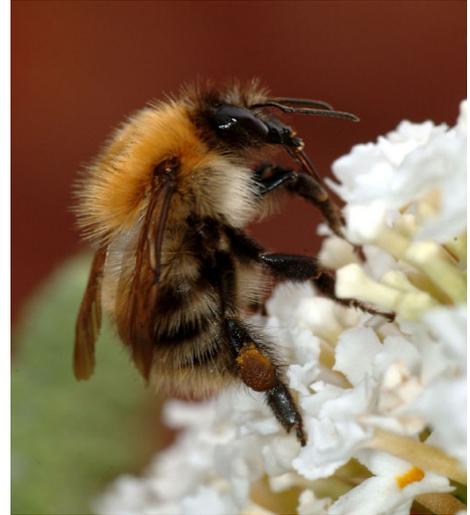


The bumblebees at the cabin

We have enjoyed having bumblebees under the eaves in the corner of the balcony at the cabin for many years. In the beginning we probably noticed only one or two, but as time passed, more showed up and in 2014 it was buzzing everywhere. They were often in the raspberry bushes, and there are many wild flowers around the cabin.

I used to put a chair below the eaves so I could sit and watch the bumblebees fly in and out. I never worried that they would sting me, and that may be because they knew me, or they recognized me by smell. I always sat very still, and was never afraid when they came too close.



In 2015 all the bumblebees were gone. Not a single one was flying around, and it was strange that all of them disappeared. Both the queen and the worker bumblebee have stingers, and the sting is very painful, but not dangerous. On the queen and the worker the stinger sits in the tail, but the male does not have a stinger.

The bumblebee has small wings relative to the body size, and the movements of the wings are like small rotors that give lift and they propel the bumblebee forward. In addition to its own body weight it can carry the equivalent weight in the form of nectar and pollen. The bumblebee usually survives only one year, but the ones at Klubben have been there for many years. It is a little sad that they are gone this year. I enjoyed having them there. They were always there when we came to the cabin.

It so happens that we are cutting back on our trips to the cabin, and so far this year we have only spent the night there three times. We have plans for one more visit if the weather permits.

We wonder if we will see the bumblebees then, but it may be for them as it is for us: Things don't last forever. It is like that with life as well.

August 2015

Jarle