



Biosecurity St Helena

# Wasp Alert!

The European Paper Wasp (*Polistes dominula*) is spreading across the Cape region of South Africa. It has a painful sting and is a predator which could attack our endemic invertebrates.



A photograph of a Common Wasp with a black and yellow striped abdomen and a black thorax. A blue arrow points to the black thorax with the label "black".

**Common Wasp**  
(already on the island):  
1 – 1.5 cm long,  
chunky, wings flat



A photograph of a European Paper Wasp with a red and yellow striped abdomen and a red thorax. A blue arrow points to the red thorax with the label "red".

**European Paper Wasp:**  
2 – 2.5 cm long,  
slender, wings stick out

The European Paper Wasp is bigger than our Common Wasp and more slender. It makes flat, papery nests high up, in trees, under roofs or in shipping containers (never in the ground).



Two photographs showing a European Paper Wasp nest. The left photo shows a large, flat, papery nest with many cells. The right photo shows an adult wasp on a smaller section of the nest.

Adults on paper nests

If you see this wasp please call Julie Balchin on 24724  
or email [julie.balchin@enrd.gov.sh](mailto:julie.balchin@enrd.gov.sh)