Can you identify the bee **mimics**?

Below are some common **bee mimics** mixed in with common bees. Can you tell the difference between the true bees and their mimics?

A) Long-horned bee, *Melissodes trinodis* **B)** Blueberry cellophane bee, *Colletes validus* **C)** Flower fly, *Eristalis transversa*
D) Common Eastern bumble bee, *Bombus impatiens* **E)** Eastern carpenter bee, *Xylocopa virginica*
F) European paper wasp, *Polistes dominula* **G)** Honey bee, *Apis mellifera*
H) Eastern yellow jacket (wasp), *Vespula maculifrons* **I)** Syrphid fly, *Sphaerophoria* sp.
J) Leaf-cutter bee, *Megachile inimica* **K)** Bufflehead mason bee, *Osmia bucephala* **L)** Bumblebee robber fly, *Laphria* sp.

Did you know?

1. Some insects mimic bee coloring to warn they can sting, to scare away predators (even if they can't sting!), or to attack unsuspecting bees.
2. Wasps can be identified by their hairless body and slender waist. They are carnivorous and do not collect pollen.
3. Flies can be identified by their oversized eyes, stubby antennae, and single pair of wings.

Tips to identify a bee:

- Two pairs of wings
- Typically fuzzy, rounded body
- Might be carrying pollen on legs or under its abdomen

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