

## A dark form of the Tree Bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum*.

Mike Averill

The Tree Bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum*, new to the British Isles in 2001, has swept across the country and is now a familiar sight in Worcestershire, having first been recorded in 2008. The queens emerge in March and the usual markings are a ginger coloured thorax, black abdomen and a white tail. There are dark varieties where the ginger on the thorax is replaced by black, sometimes extending to the abdomen resulting in a black bee with a white tail. The photos 01 & 02, taken in Kidderminster on the 23rd February 2016, show a queen with much reduced ginger replaced by black on the thorax. It is not known if this queen was always like this or whether she lost the ginger hairs over the winter.



01. Tree bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum* with extensively black thorax. Mike Averill.



02. Tree bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum* with extensively black thorax. Mike Averill

### Reference

Falk, S. 2015. *Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain and Ireland*. British Wildlife Publishing an imprint of Bloomsbury, London.

### Images

01. Tree bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum* with extensively black thorax. Mike Averill

02. Tree bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum* with extensively black thorax. Mike Averill