

## *Lasioglossum calceatum* males roosting on lavender

Wendy Carter

When Storm Aileen hit Worcestershire in mid September 2017 and the noise of the wind kept me awake, I began to wonder what would become of my bees.

Only a few days before, 9<sup>th</sup> September, when I'd gone to deadhead my lavender in the late afternoon, I had discovered a whole gang of *Lasioglossum* going to roost (01, 02, 03). Whilst the girls have the tunnels of their nests to return to for the evening, the boys are left finding a spot to tuck themselves away for a spot of snoozing.

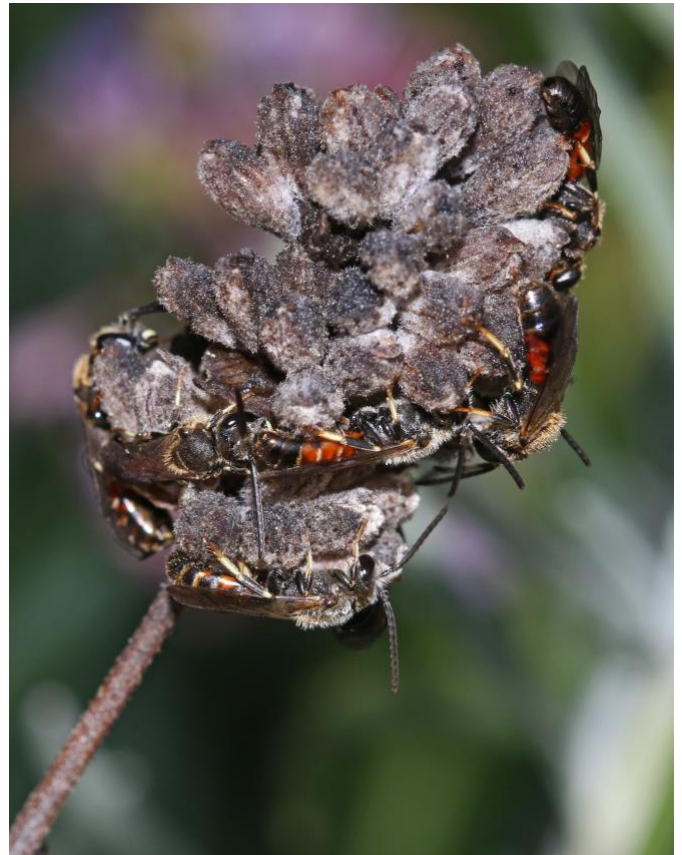


01. *Lasioglossum calceatum* roosting Defford 13th September 2017. Wendy Carter.

I've only ever recorded three or four *Lasioglossum calceatum* in the garden at any one time yet there were 12 bees on a couple of lavender flower heads as well as three or four more individuals hiding underneath flower heads of Devil's-bit Scabious. As Jane Scott reported in *Worcestershire Record* 31 (November 2011) page 27, over the next few nights I noticed that the bees were returning to the same flower heads.



02. *Lasioglossum calceatum* roosting Defford 13th September 2017. Wendy Carter.



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I don't know what is particularly wonderful about the chosen flower heads except that they are in a part of the garden that seems to catch the last of the sun's warmth, although that does mean they are amongst the last flowers to catch the morning light. They are not the

only flower heads and they don't appear to provide as much shelter as, for example, the *Achillea* not far away. It's also interesting to consider how they find their way back to the same flower heads each evening; entomologist John Walters, in his blog <http://johnwalters.co.uk/notebook/post.php?s=2016-09-27-furrow-bee-roost> suggests that it may be pheromone driven.

My small garden is planted with pollen and nectar rich flowers but although I see *Lasioglossum calceatum* males wandering about on Sedum and Scabious heads during the day, it's never in such big numbers as I find them roosting in the evening. I wonder where they go...

#### Reference

Scott, J. 2011. Observations on solitary bees in a garden at Astley Burf. *Worcestershire Record* 31:27

#### Images

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