

Northern giant hornet

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About Northern giant hornet:

- **Scientific name:** *Vespa mandarinia*
- It is the **largest hornet in the world**, measuring up to 2 inches long.
- **Habitat:** They are known for inhabiting the **lower altitude forest** and avoiding large plains and high-altitude regions.
- **Distribution:** They are native to temperate regions in **China, Korea, Japan, and India**.
- It is an **invasive species which** poses a significant threat to **insects and native pollinators**.
- It is nicknamed as 'Murder hornets', can kill an entire beehive of honeybees in just 90 minutes.
- The hornets then defend the hive as their own, taking the brood to feed their own young.
- They can sting through most beekeeper suits, delivering almost **seven times the amount of venom as a honey bee**. Moreover, they have the ability to sting multiple times.
- They mainly feed on native insects: butterflies, moths, dragonflies, bees, wasps, etc.
- **Ecological impact:** It preys on honey bees and poses an indirect **threat to plants** that depend on honey bees for pollination.

Q1: What is an Invasive Species?

These are plants, animals, fungi, or microorganisms that are introduced to new environments outside of their native range and, as a result, have a negative impact on the ecosystems, economies, and/or human health.

News: Why and how did the United States eradicate 'murder hornets'?

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