

Some bees are coloured differently from the normal yellow and brown markings. The blue-banded bee is named for its blue stripes. Found in Australia and parts of Asia and Africa, they are known as solitary bees as they do not live in hives or produce honey.

If winter is not approaching, then baby bees take about seven weeks to hatch. The bee chews its way out of the cell and emerges as an adult. The **adult blue-banded bee** lives for about 40 days.

The blue-banded bee starts life inside nests often found in soft sandstone or loose dirt. The nests have water-proofed cells filled with pollen and nectar by the mother. The **egg** is laid, and the cell is sealed with dirt. Larva begins to grow inside the egg.

Eventually, the **larva** hatches out of the egg.

Once the larva has eaten and grown enough, it forms a **pupa** by spinning a cocoon around itself. Inside the cocoon, some features are developed such as eyes, legs, wings and head.

The white, legless **larva** spends time eating and shedding their skin. It can grow quickly, however if winter is approaching the **larvae** will instead emerge the following spring.

