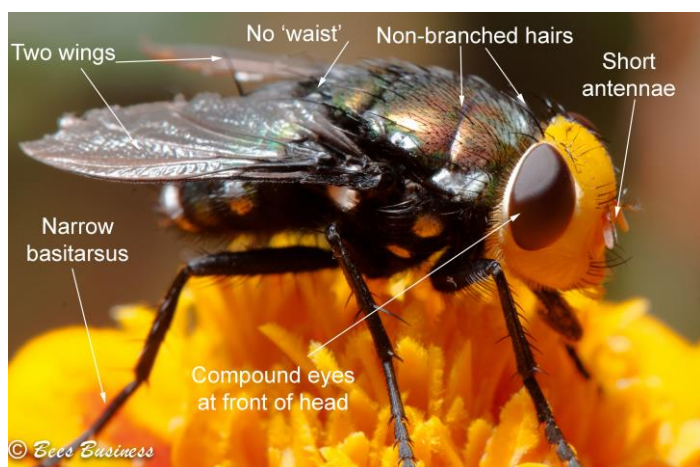


# 6 Differences Between Australian Native Bees and Flies

Some flies, such as “bee flies” (Bombyliidae), can be quite hairy. Many flies visit flowers to feed on nectar. Some are good pollinators.



Bees have **narrow waists**. Flies have no narrowing between the thorax and abdomen.

Bees have **two pairs of wings** (total 4). Flies have only **two wings**.

Bees feed their off-spring **pollen**. Flies' off-spring feed on decaying material.

Bees usually have thick, **branched hairs** which attract large amounts of pollen to their bodies. Flies are usually hairless or have **simple, non-branched hairs**.

Bees have modified hair structures (scopa) to **carry pollen** loads back to the nest. Flies don't carry pollen.

Bees have a broadened **basitarsus** (first segment of the end of the leg) on the hind leg. Flies have a narrow basitarsus.

Bees have compound **eyes positioned** on the side of the head. Flies have larger compound eyes positioned more toward the front of the head.

