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Nest structure of *Vespa crabro* Linneaus, 1758 (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Vespinae) in Turkey

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Comprising of six subfamilies, Vespidae is a large family represented by 5000 species, predominantly tropical. Among Vespidae, the Vespinae subfamily is represented by 80 species belonging to the following genera: Vespa, Vespula, Provespa and Dolichovespula. Individuals of the genus Vespa (hornets) shows distribution in Oriental and Palaearctic regions in the world. The European hornet *Vespa crabro* shows distribution from Europe to Asia and is found in the Eastern Anatolia, Black Sea, Central Anatolia, Mediterranean, Aegean and Marmara regions in Turkey. *Vespa crabro* individuals execute a eusocial lifestyle and they usually build their nests with rotten tree barks or plant fibers embedded in mud and soil; all these materials are glued together with saliva secreted by female hornets. Their nest can be built under the soil, inside hollow trees, or they can be suspended up to meters 2 meters or above the ground with the aid of a pedicle. Several studies are conducted in order to assess their nest structure, yet little is known. In this study, a *Vespa crabro* nest was found in an attic in Kocaeli, Turkey on 17/08/2014. The nest consisted of a pedicle attached to the attic ceiling and a comb surrounded by an envelope. All individuals were killed and the nest was carefully taken from the roof. The comb carrying developing pupae and larvae were immediately frozen at -20. The nest dimension was measured and the number of individuals was determined.