

A European citizen science project for monitoring hornet abundance in apiaries

iHORNETS is a mobile application designed to monitor the abundance of hornet species in apiaries using a simple and standardized methodology.

By collecting observations from apiaries across Europe, the project aims to better understand:

- seasonal hornet dynamics,
- differences in abundance between regions,
- and the expansion of invasive hornet species.

The information collected through the app will help researchers generate European-scale monitoring maps and improve scientific knowledge about hornet pressure on apiaries.

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How does iHORNETS app work?

1. Register your apiary

Add your apiary location (or simply the municipality) using the mobile application.

2. Count hornets

Stand in front of a SINGLE hive and count the hornets flying in front of the hive for 30 seconds.



3. Repeat the process

Repeat the count on additional hives (covering at least 5 hives per apiary) and repeat the survey on different weeks (preferably every 2 weeks from mid-August to mid-November). Hives can be selected randomly on each sampling day.



How to count hornets correctly?

- Observe ONE hive for 30 seconds. Count only the hornets associated with that hive, not the whole apiary.
- Count hornets present in front of the hive, whether they are flying, hunting, or simply hovering.
- Do not count hornets that are nearby but not interacting with the hive (e.g. on the ground collecting dead insects).
- If you are sure that a hornet leaves and returns during the 30 seconds, count it only once. If you cannot tell whether it is the same individual, count each observation as a new hornet.
- If no hornets are observed at that hive, submit 0, even if hornets are present at other hives. Zero counts are just as important as positive counts and should always be submitted.



iHORNETS

Target species

iHORNETS focuses on hornets belonging to the genus *Vespa*, including both native and invasive species present in Europe.

The project mainly aims to monitor species commonly associated with apiaries, such as:

Vespa velutina



Didier Descouens CC BY-SA 4.0

Vespa orientalis



Sandy Rae CC BY-SA 4.0

Vespa bicolor



portioid CC BY-SA 4.0

Vespa crabro



AfroBrazilian CC BY-SA 4.0



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Using the iHORNETS app

In the following pages, you will find step-by-step information and images explaining how to use the iHORNETS mobile application.

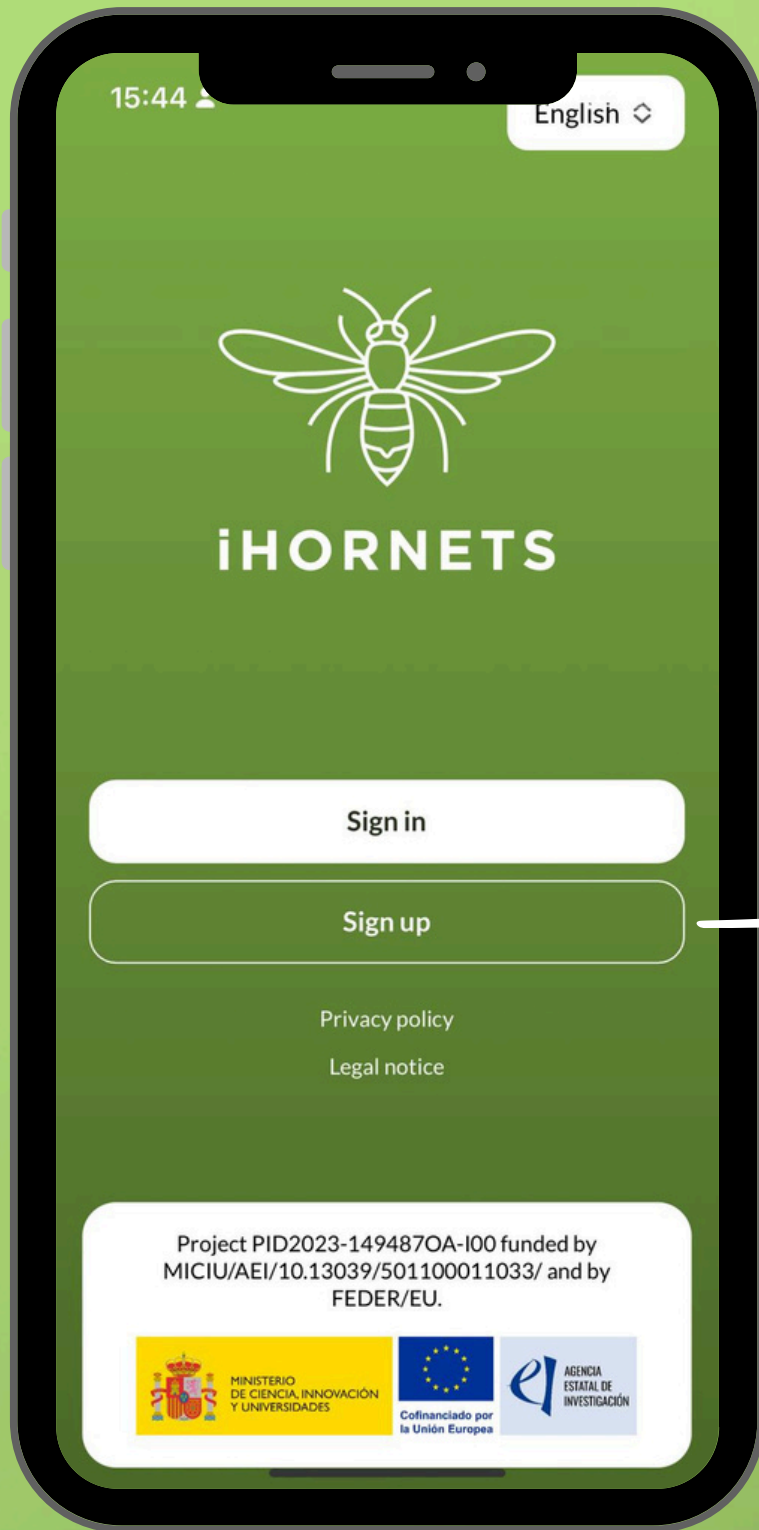
The tutorial will guide you through:

- Sign up (p6)
- Create a settlement (p8)
- Edit a settlement (p11)
- Delete a settlement (p12)
- Start counting (p14)
- Save a count (p21)
- Continue counting (p23)
- Delete a counting (p25)
- Home page (p26)

The application has been designed to be simple, fast, and accessible to all beekeepers.



1. Sign up

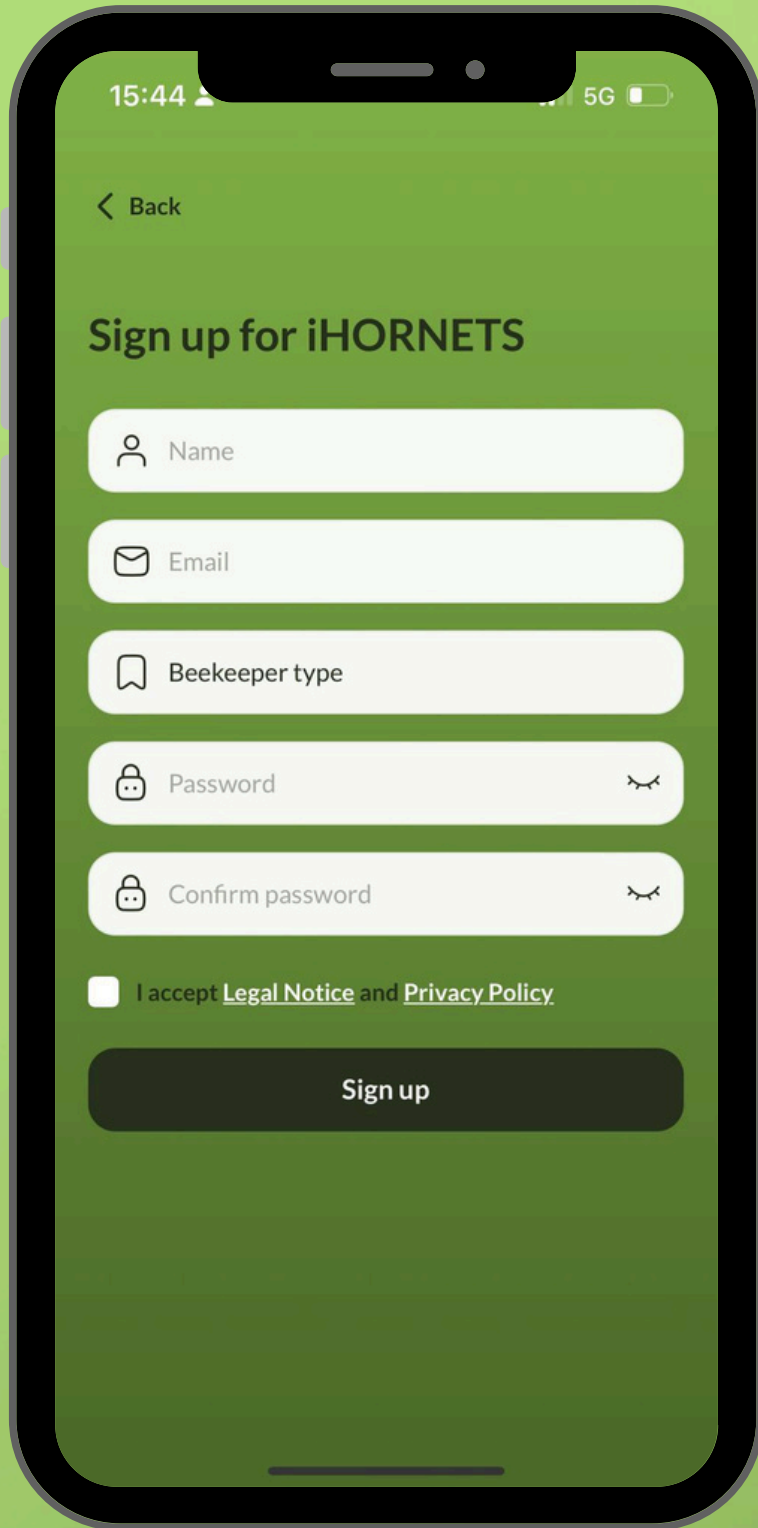


→ **Sign up** to register



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1. Sign up



15:44 5G

< Back

Sign up for iHORNETS

 Name

 Email

 Beekeeper type

 Password 

 Confirm password 

☐ I accept [Legal Notice](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

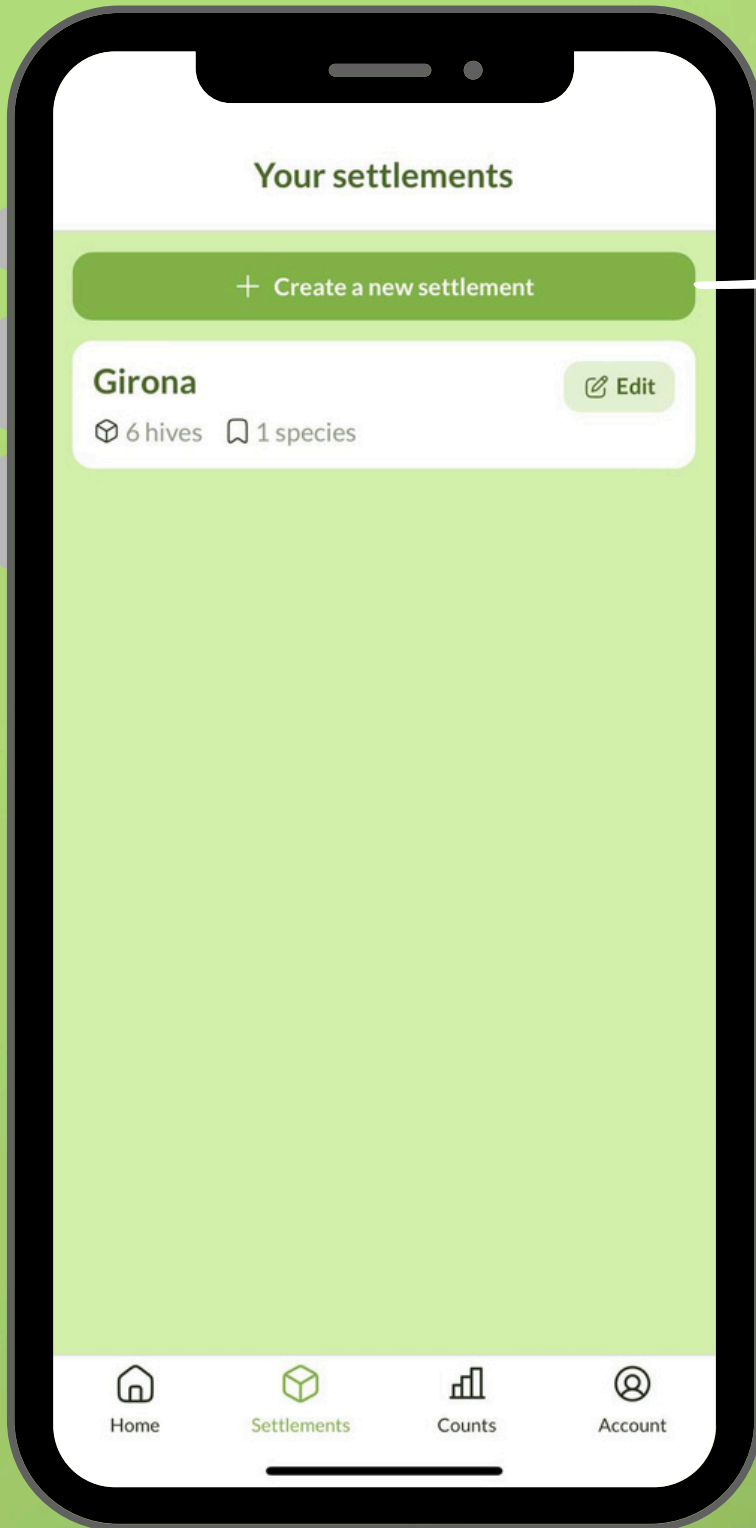
Sign up

Enter your **name**, **email**, and **password**, select your **beekeeper type** (*professional, non-professional, or self-consumption*, based on the number of hives), and click **sign up** to create your account



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2. Create a settlement



Start creating a settlement by clicking **"Create a new settlement"**



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2. Create a settlement

< New settlement

Settlement name

Apiary Puig Roca

Number of hives

15

Municipality

Palamós, Spain

☒ Mark position on map

Location helps us conduct studies on the impact in geographic areas more accurately

Región de les
Pyrenées
catalanes

Argeles-sur-Mer

E-15

Empuriabrava

Olot

Banyoles

L'Escala

Girona

Platja d'Aro

i S'Agaró

Palamós

Create settlement

Home Settlements Counts Account

→ Give your settlement a name

→ Enter the number of hives

→ Enter the municipality

OPTIONAL: You can mark the exact location on the map by **moving the red pointer**



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2. Create a settlement

New settlement

Castelldefels

Google Keyboard shortcuts Map Data Terms

Species
Select the species you want to count.

☐ *Vespa bicolor* ☐ *Vespa crabro*

☒ *Vespa orientalis* ☒ *Vespa velutina*

☐ Other

Protection measures
If you don't apply any, no option needs to be marked.

☒ Koldo trap ☐ Electric harp

☐ Muzzle ☐ Trap with attractant

☐ Chemical trojans ☐ Other

Create settlement

Home Settlements Counts Account

Select the **hornet species** in the apiary. If a species is not listed, select "Other" and provide its name

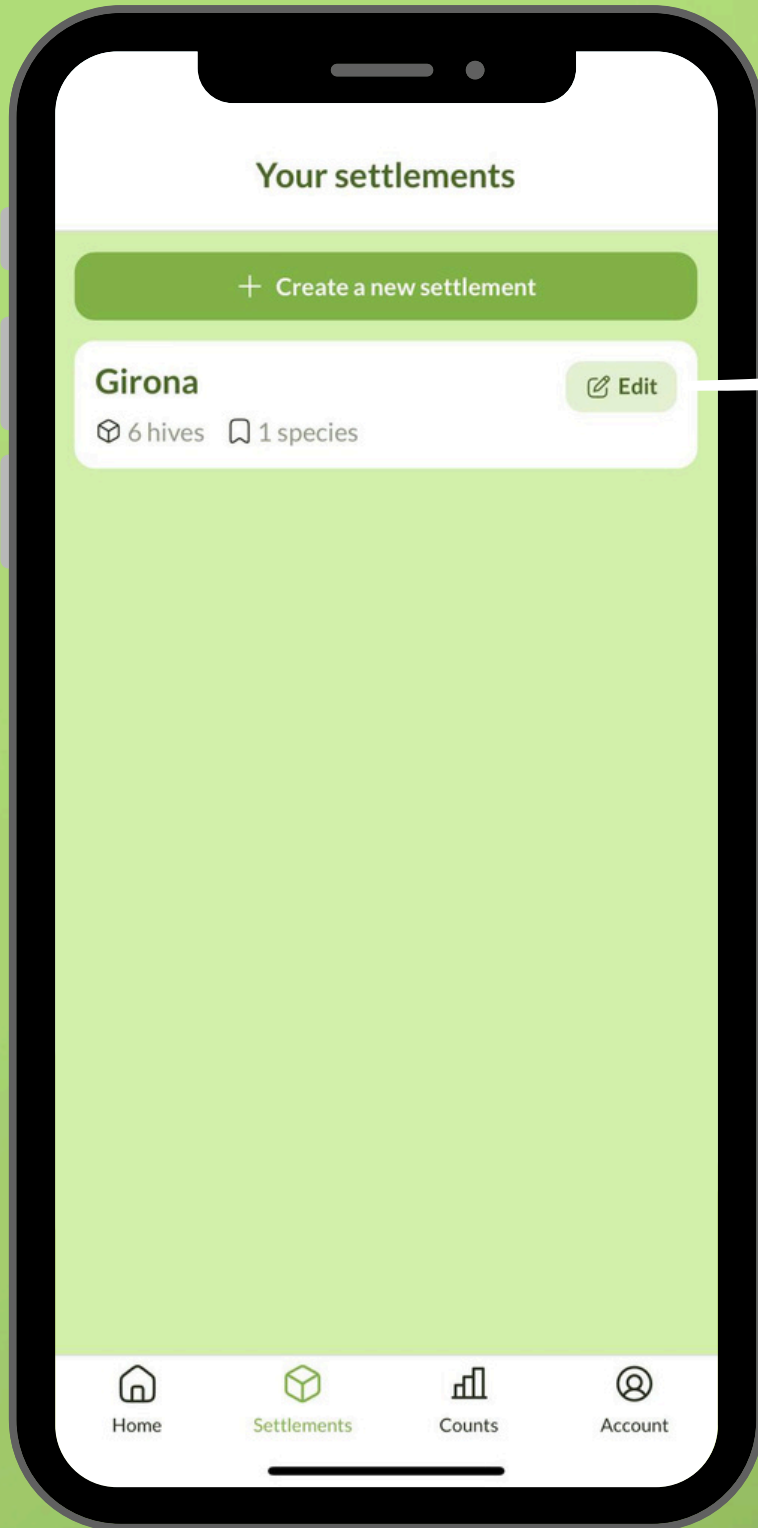
Next, select the **protection method** used in the apiary. If none applies, leave the field blank. If the method is not listed, select "Other" and specify it

Finally, click "Create settlement"



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3. Edit a settlement

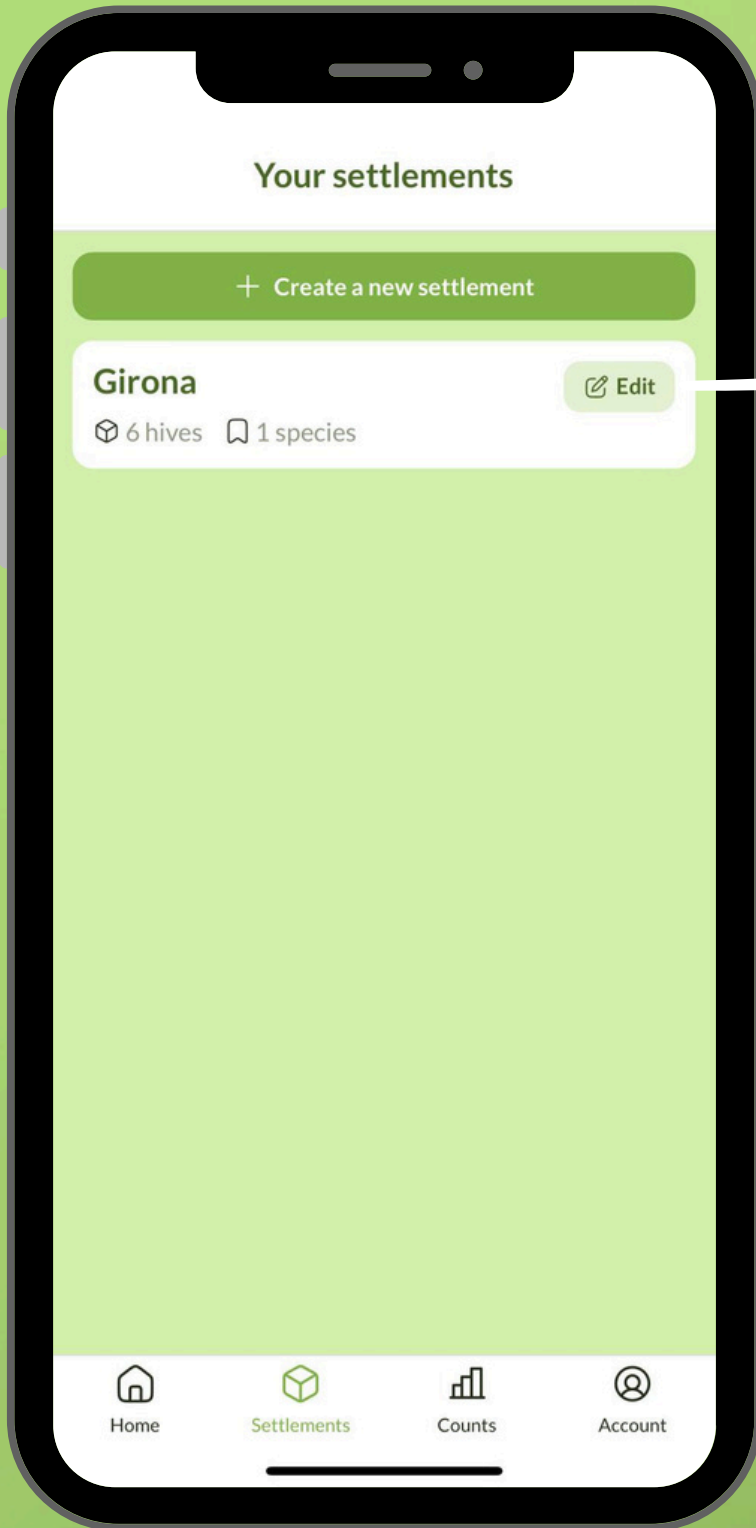


To modify an existing apiary, click the **Edit** button on the right



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4. Delete a settlement



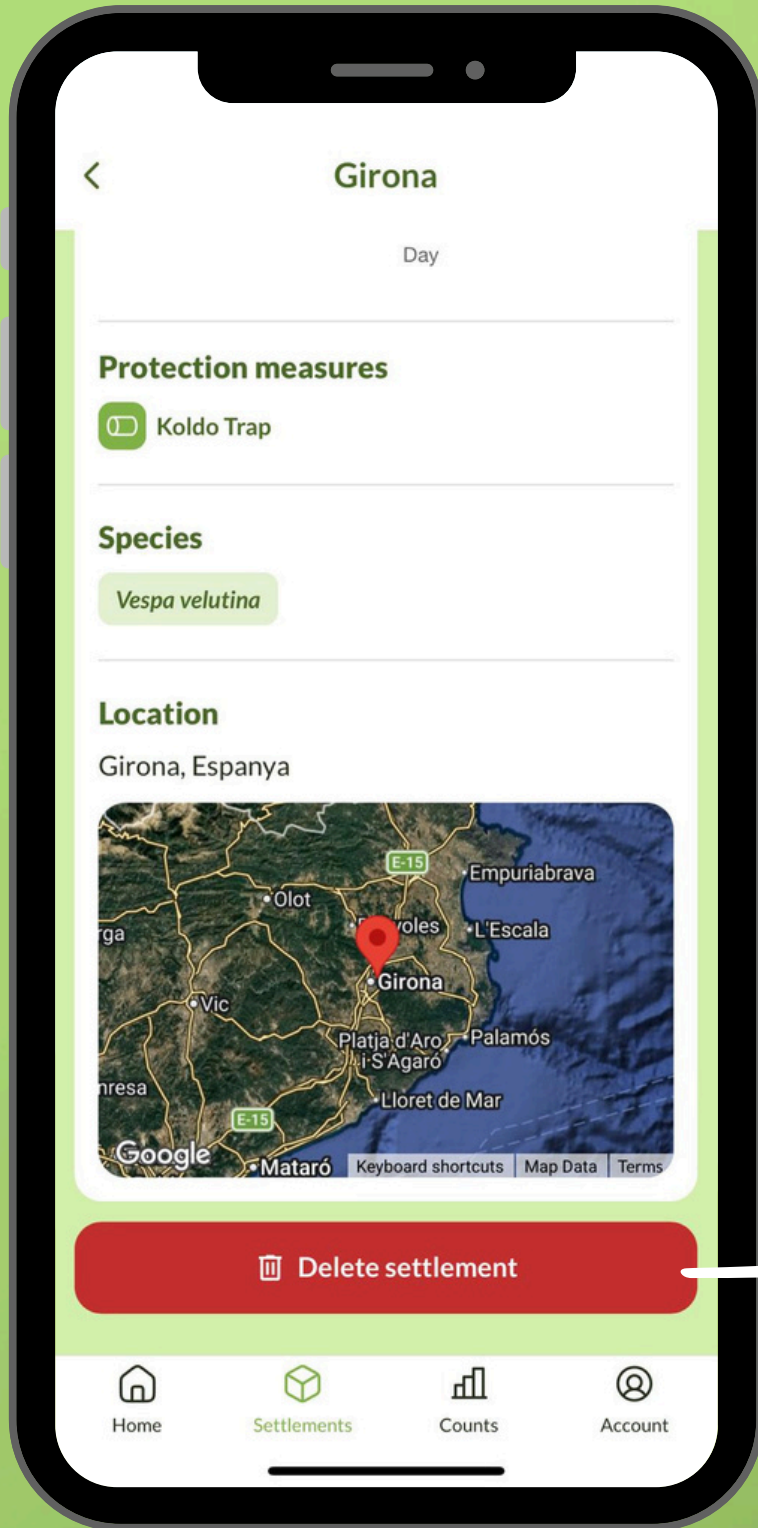
To **delete** an existing apiary, click on it and scroll to the bottom of the next screen



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4. Delete a settlement

WARNING: Deleting a settlement will permanently delete all associated counts. Before proceeding, make sure you really want to do this. This action cannot be undone.

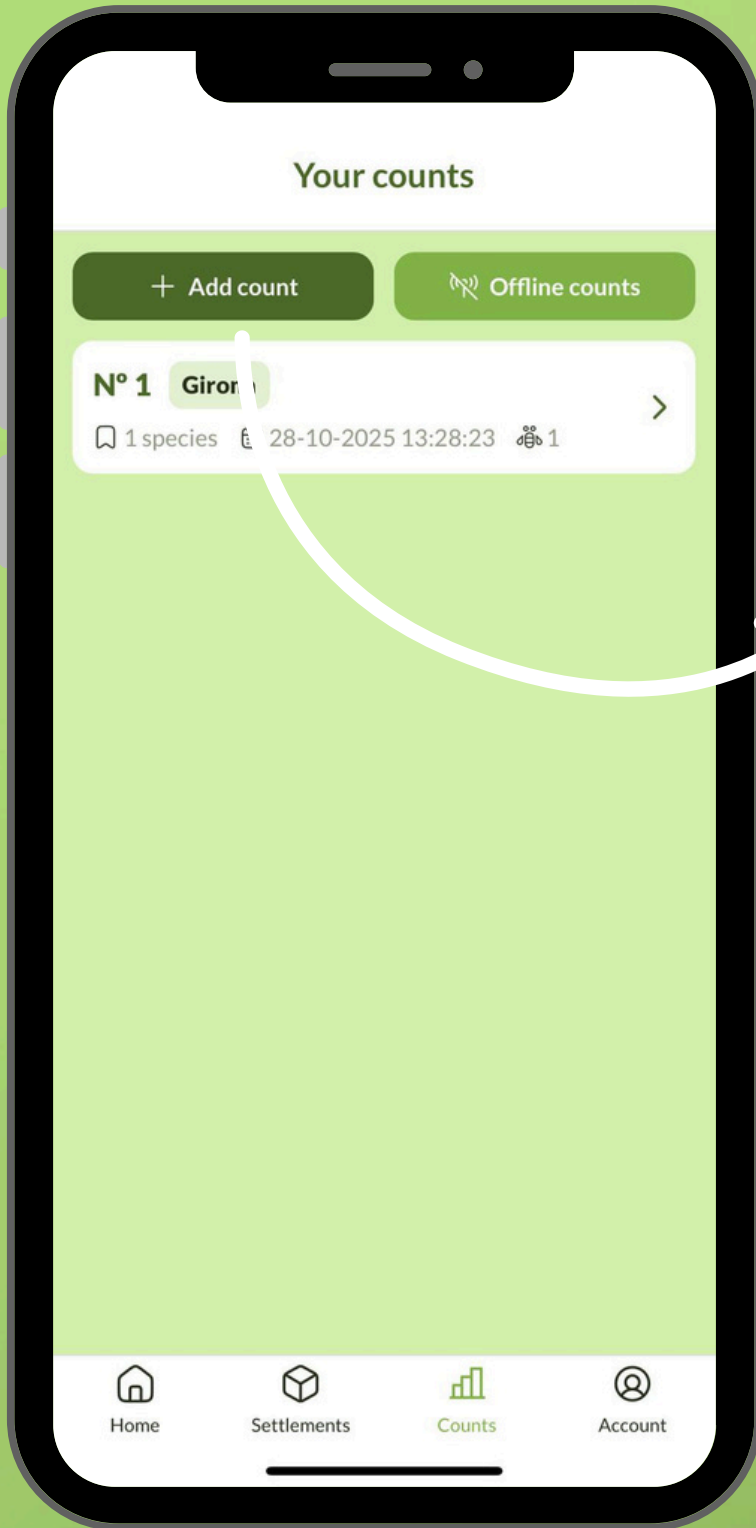


Press the "Delete settlement" button to remove the settlement and all the associated data



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5. Start counting

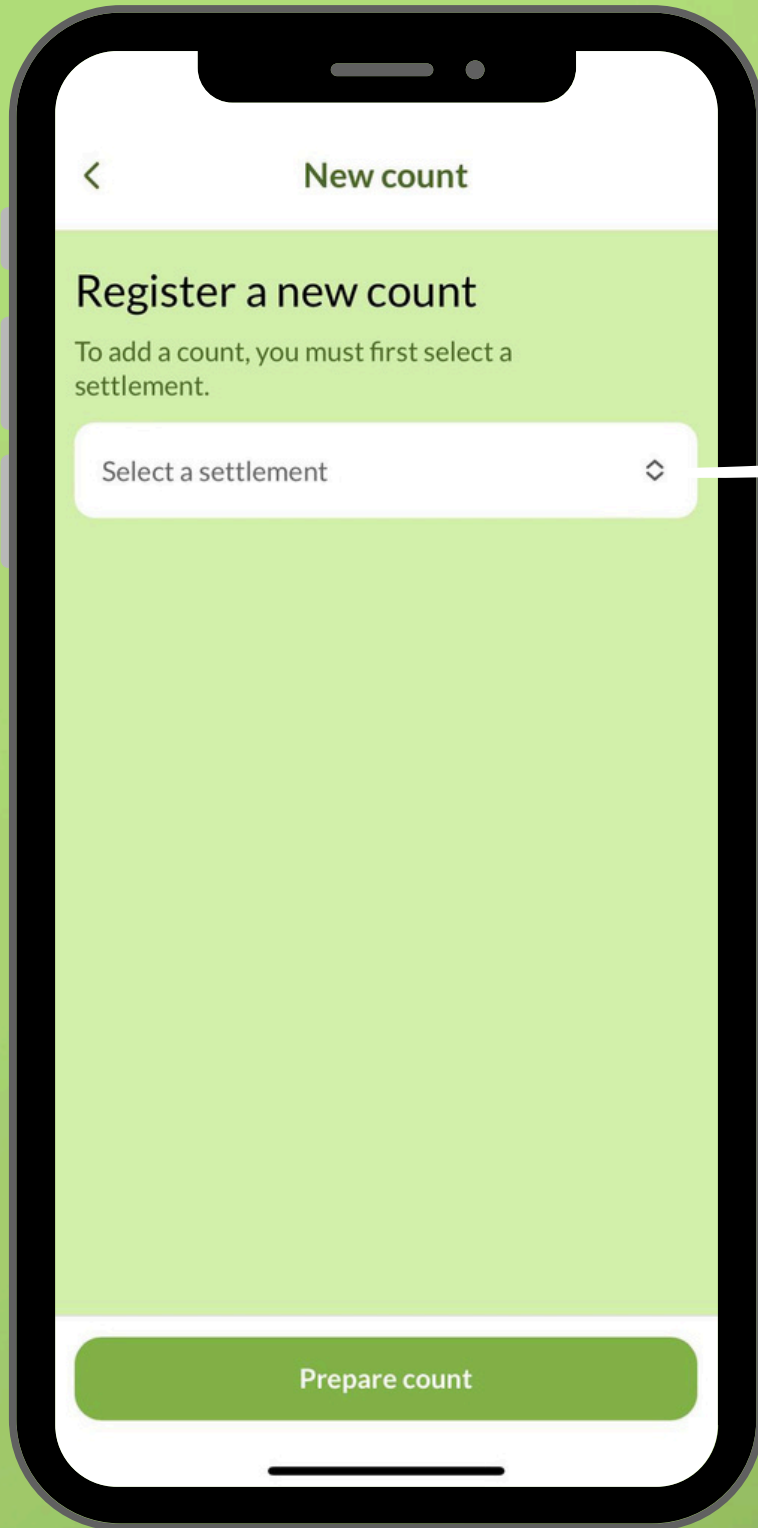


Start a count by clicking
Add count



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5. Start counting



Next, select the settlement in which you want to perform the count



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5. Start counting

Benlisquare, CC BY-SA 4.0.

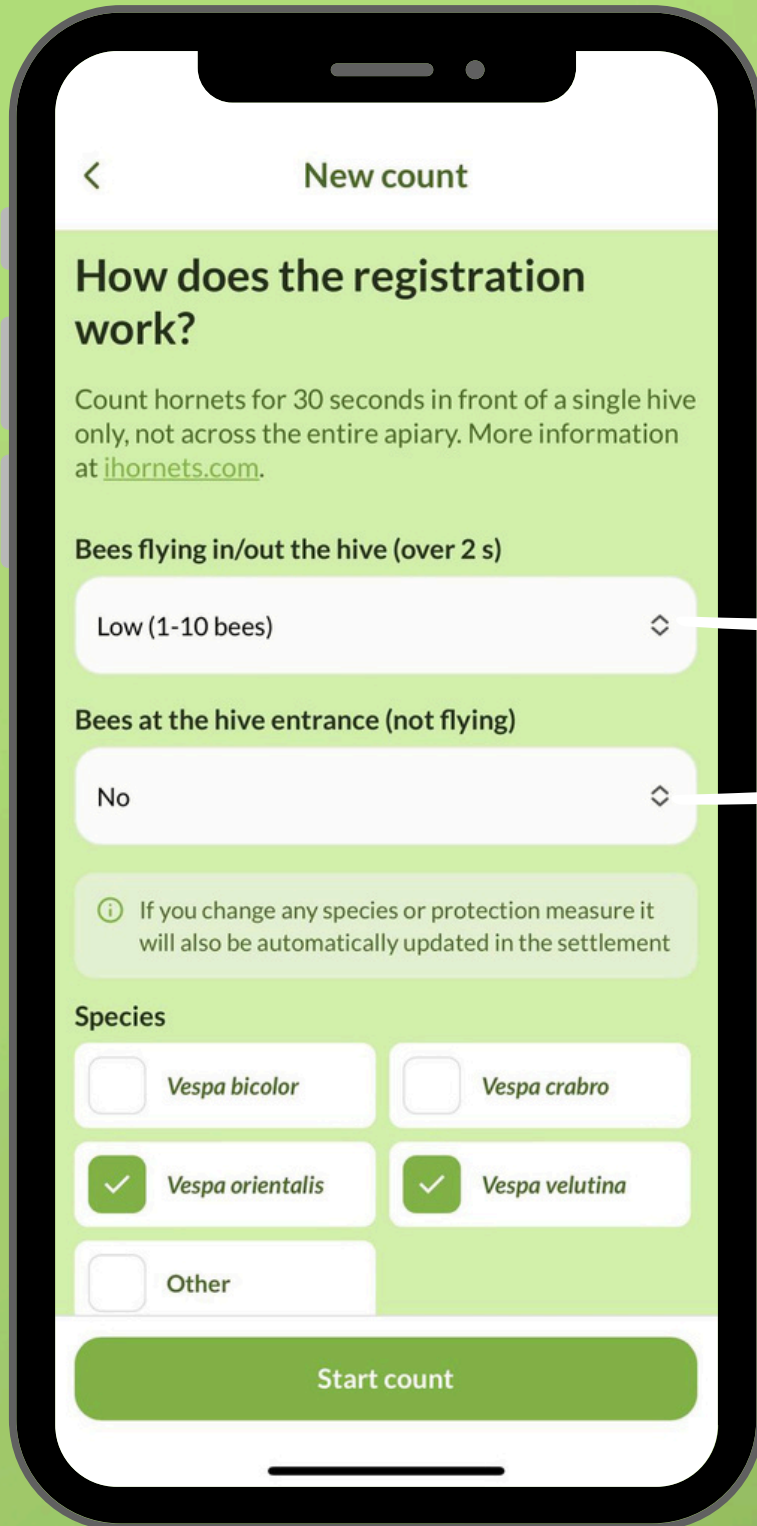


Select the level of observed **bee activity** based on the number of bees flying in and out the hive:

- *Null* (0 bees)
- *Low* (1-10 bees)
- *High* (>10 bees)

Indicate whether **bees are stopped at the entrance** of the hive:

- *Yes*
- *No*



< New count

How does the registration work?

Count hornets for 30 seconds in front of a single hive only, not across the entire apiary. More information at ihornets.com.

Bees flying in/out the hive (over 2 s)

Low (1-10 bees)

Bees at the hive entrance (not flying)

No

i If you change any species or protection measure it will also be automatically updated in the settlement

Species

☐ Vespa bicolor ☐ Vespa crabro

☒ Vespa orientalis ☒ Vespa velutina

☐ Other

Start count



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5. Start counting

< New count

No

ⓘ If you change any species or protection measure it will also be automatically updated in the settlement

Species

☐ *Vespa bicolor* ☐ *Vespa crabro*

☒ *Vespa orientalis* ☒ *Vespa velutina*

☐ Other

Does the surveyed hive have protection measures?
If you don't apply any, no option needs to be marked.

☒ Koldo trap ☐ Electric harp

☐ Muzzle ☐ Trap with attractant

☐ Chemical trojans ☐ Other

Start count

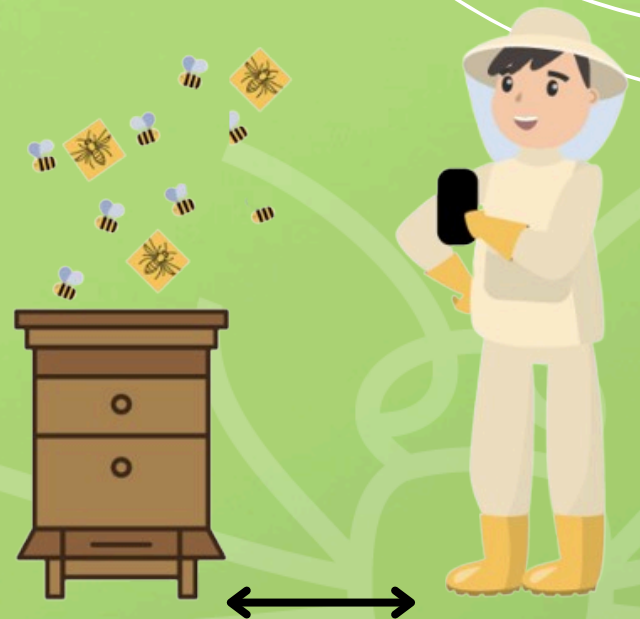
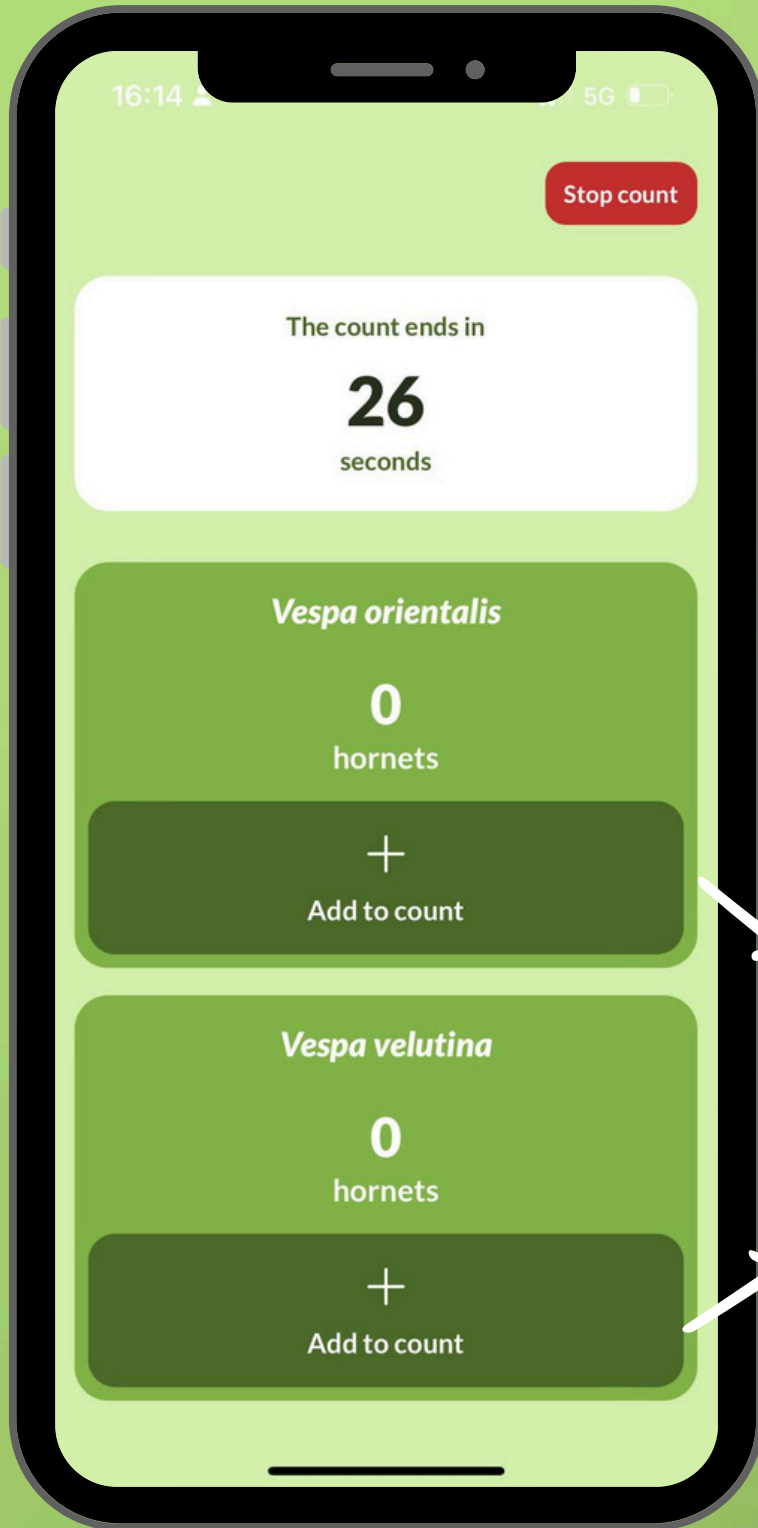
The hornet species and protection methods selected when creating the settlement are displayed here. Any changes made on this screen will be automatically updated in the settlement section

Click **Start count**



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5. Start counting



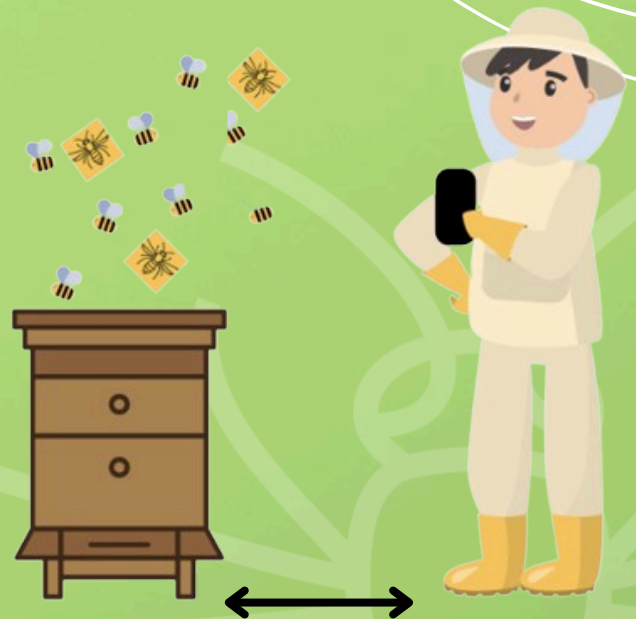
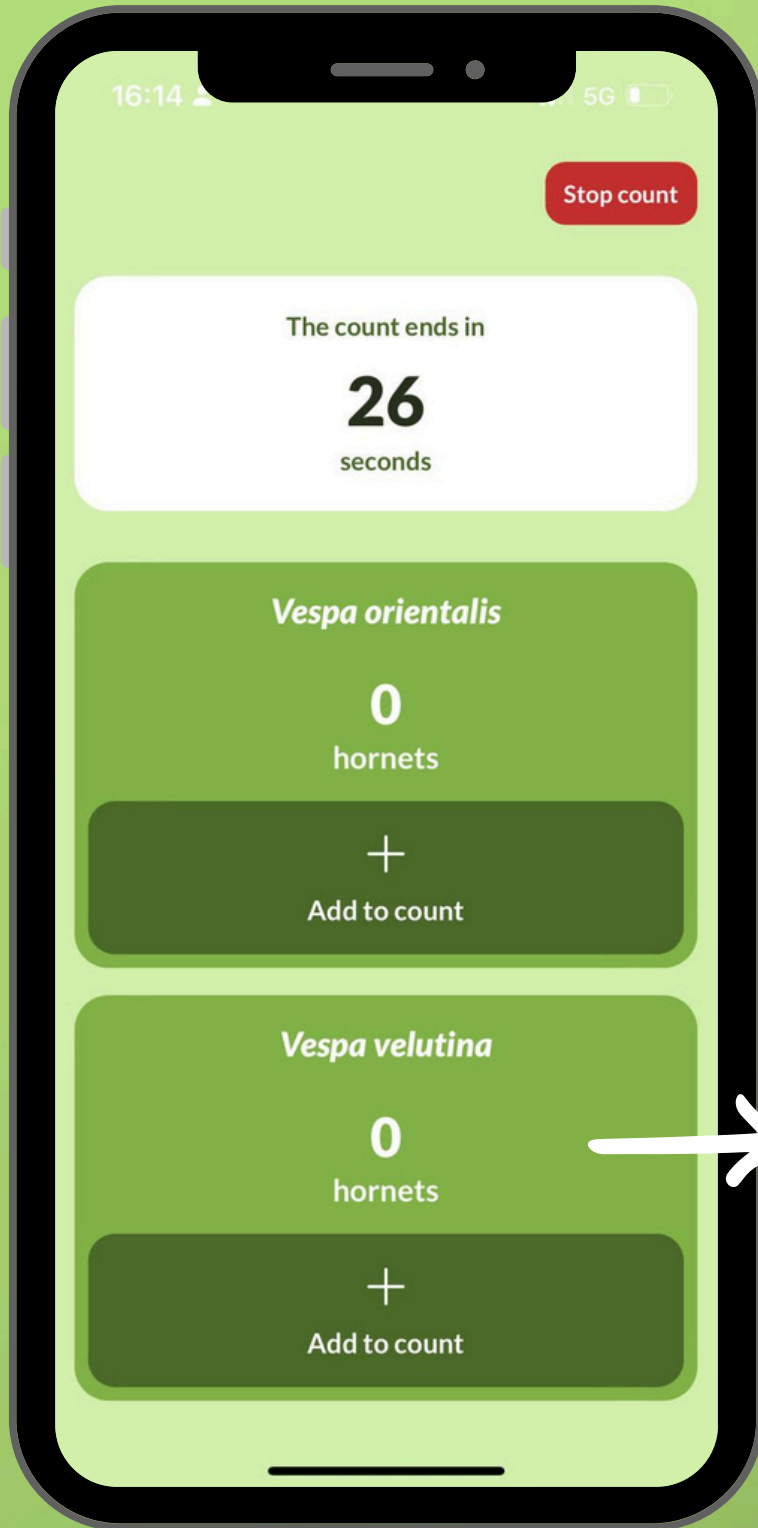
Stand 1-2 m from the hive

For 30 seconds, click the corresponding box each time you see a hornet of the selected species



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5. Start counting



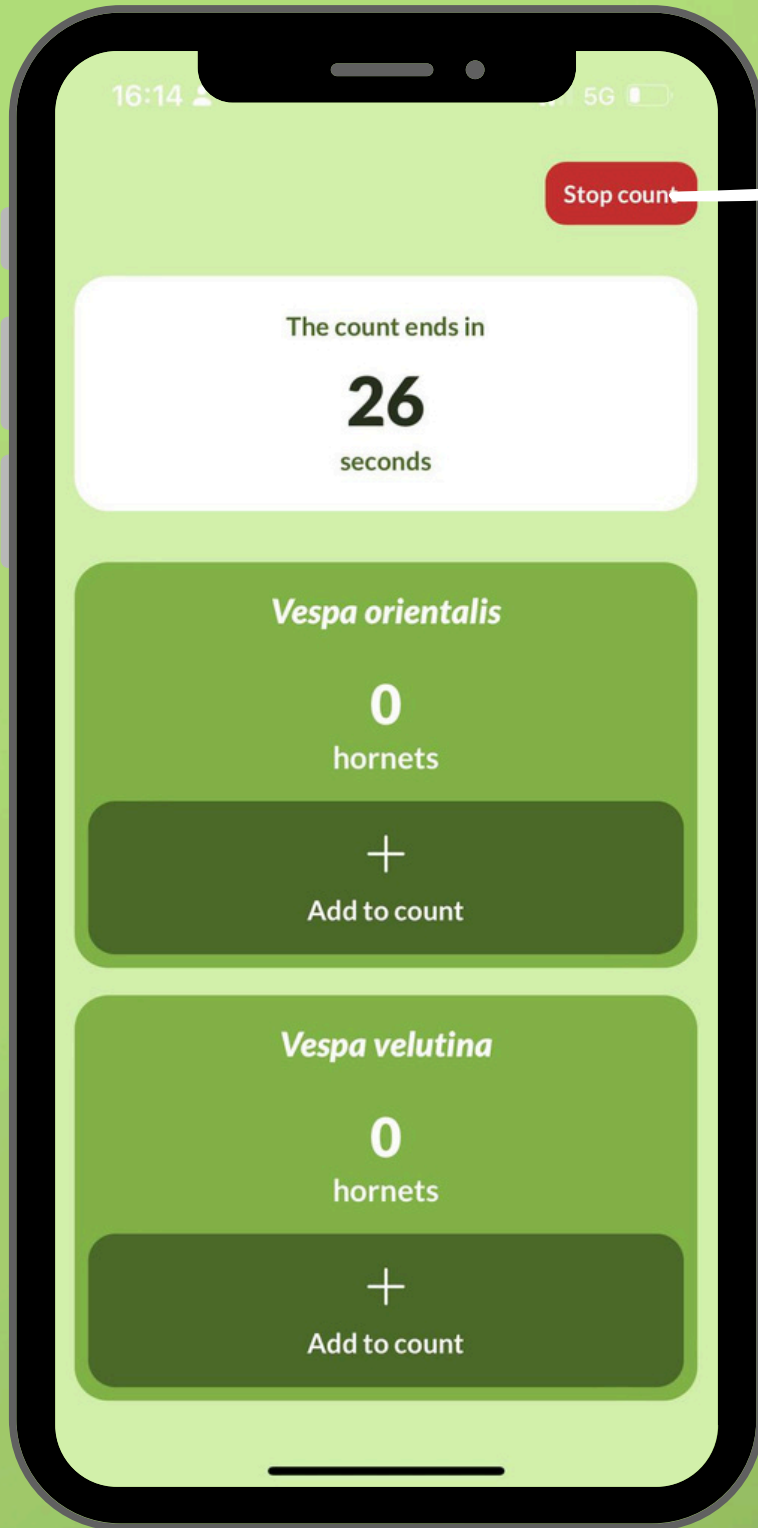
Stand 1-2 m from the hive

Please **limit your count to the hive in front of you**. If you do not observe any hornets during the 30-second counting period, this is still a valid and important result -even if hornets are visible near other hives. Remember, **zero counts matter** and are essential for detecting differences in hornet activity



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5. Start counting

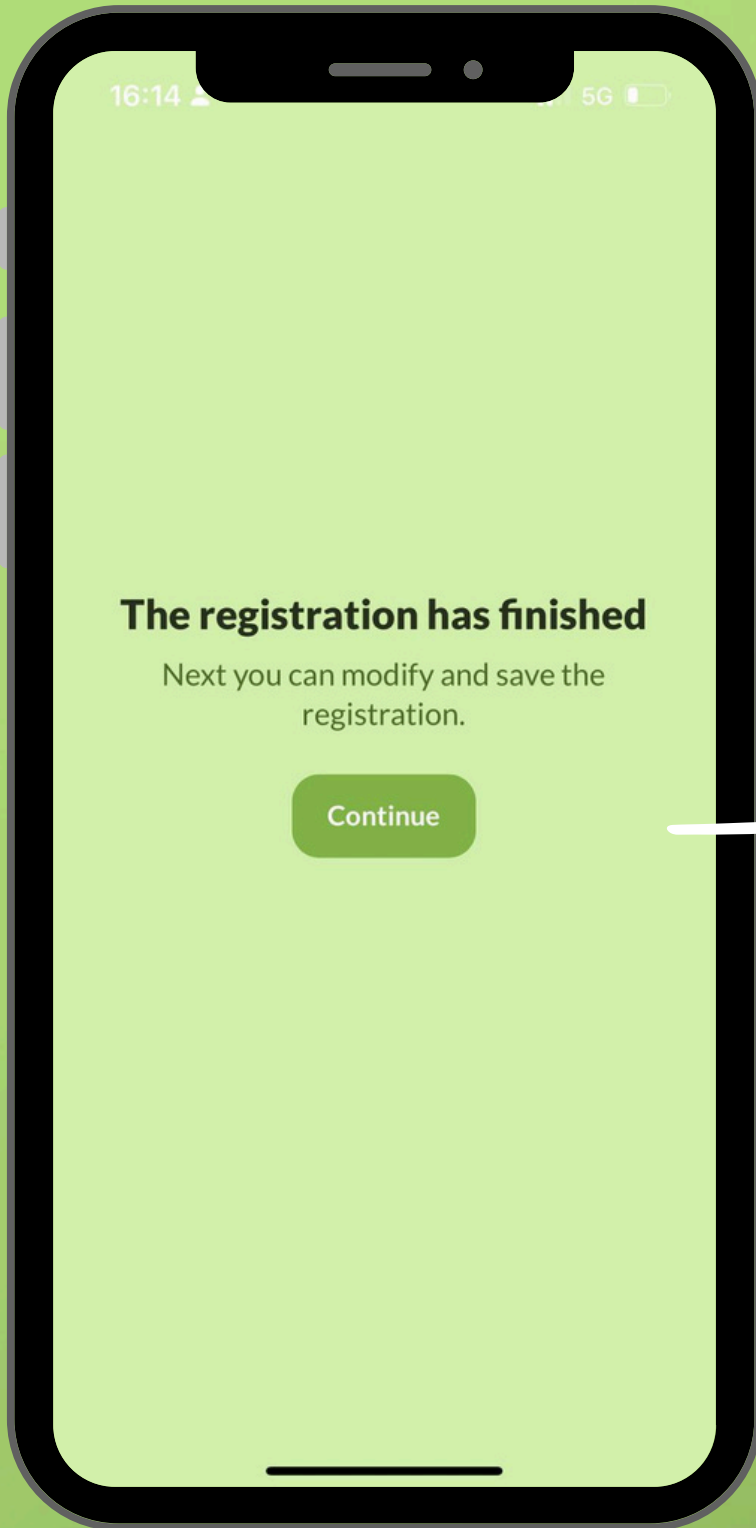


You can stop the count at any time if you encounter a problem



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6. Save a count

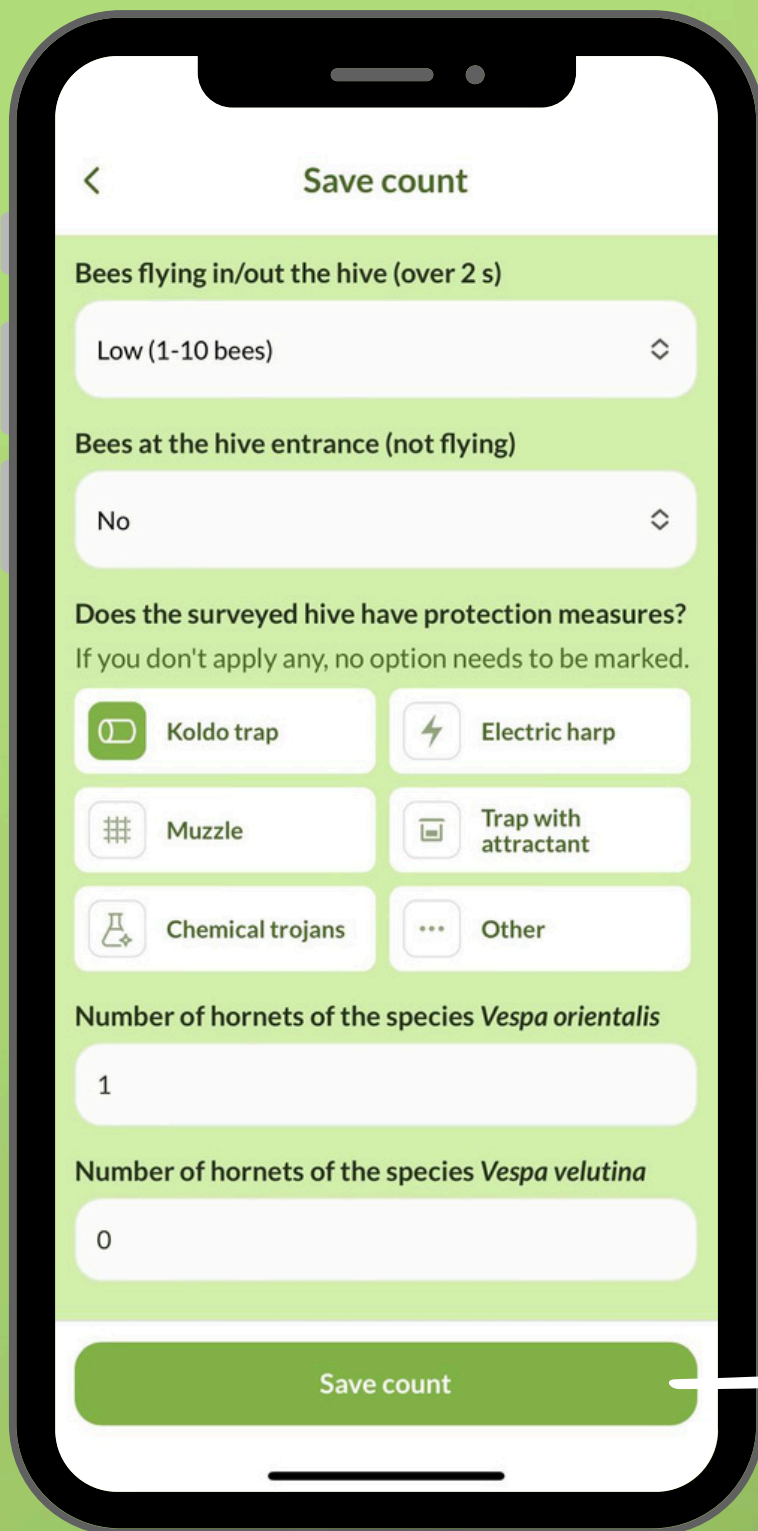


Once the 30-second count is complete, review the information and make any necessary changes before saving. This helps ensure that the record is accurate



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6. Save a count



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface titled "Save count". It features several input fields and buttons. The first section is "Bees flying in/out the hive (over 2 s)" with a dropdown menu showing "Low (1-10 bees)". The second section is "Bees at the hive entrance (not flying)" with a dropdown menu showing "No". The third section is "Does the surveyed hive have protection measures?" with a note "If you don't apply any, no option needs to be marked." Below this are six buttons: "Koldo trap", "Electric harp", "Muzzle", "Trap with attractant", "Chemical trojans", and "Other". The fourth section is "Number of hornets of the species *Vespa orientalis*" with a text input field containing "1". The fifth section is "Number of hornets of the species *Vespa velutina*" with a text input field containing "0". At the bottom is a large green button labeled "Save count".

< Save count

Bees flying in/out the hive (over 2 s)

Low (1-10 bees)

Bees at the hive entrance (not flying)

No

Does the surveyed hive have protection measures?
If you don't apply any, no option needs to be marked.

Koldo trap

Electric harp

Muzzle

Trap with attractant

Chemical trojans

Other

Number of hornets of the species *Vespa orientalis*

1

Number of hornets of the species *Vespa velutina*

0

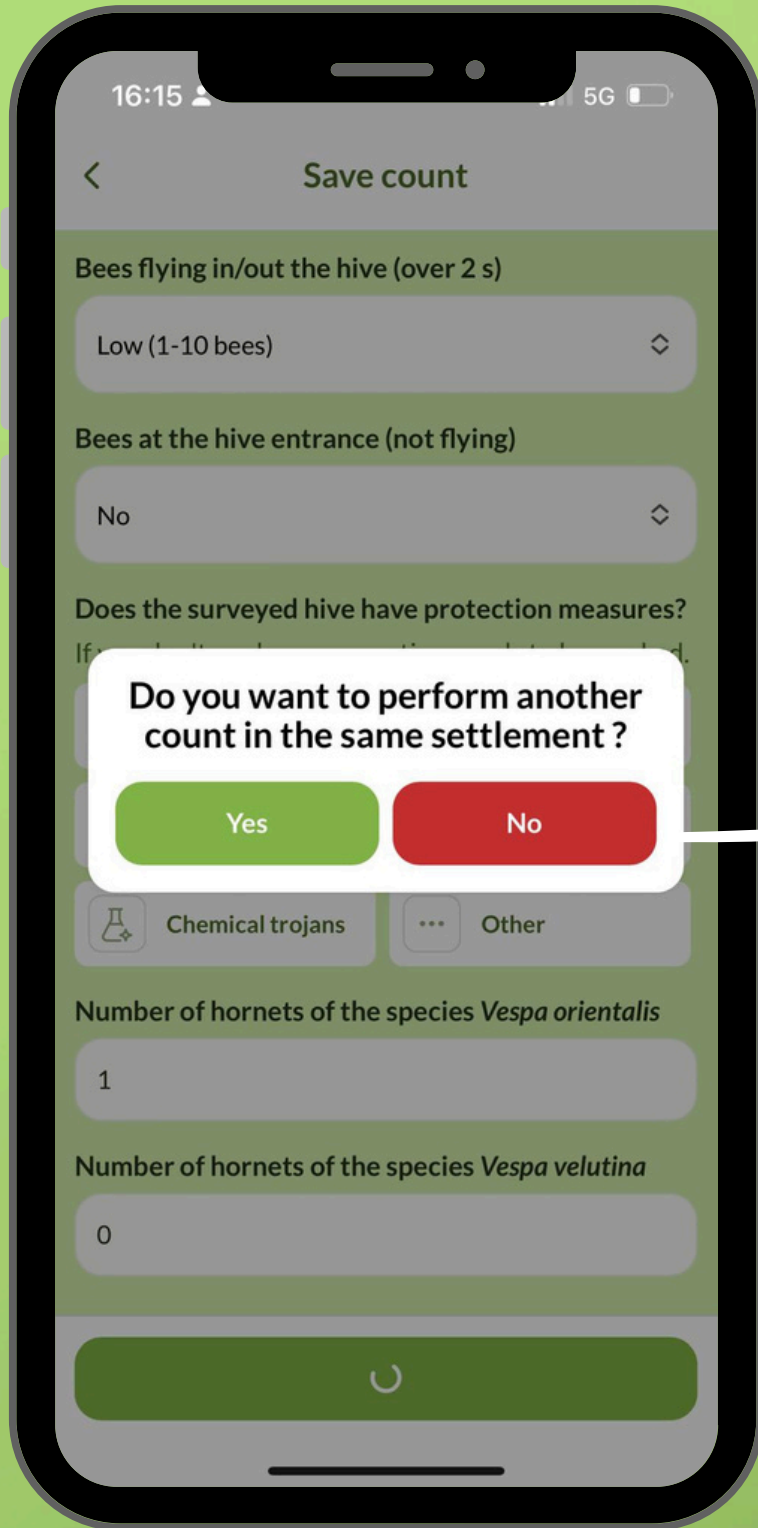
Save count

You must click **Save count** to ensure the count is recorded



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7. Continue counting



16:15 5G

< Save count

Bees flying in/out the hive (over 2 s)

Low (1-10 bees)

Bees at the hive entrance (not flying)

No

Does the surveyed hive have protection measures?

If:

Do you want to perform another count in the same settlement?

Yes No

Chemical trojans ... Other

Number of hornets of the species *Vespa orientalis*

1

Number of hornets of the species *Vespa velutina*

0

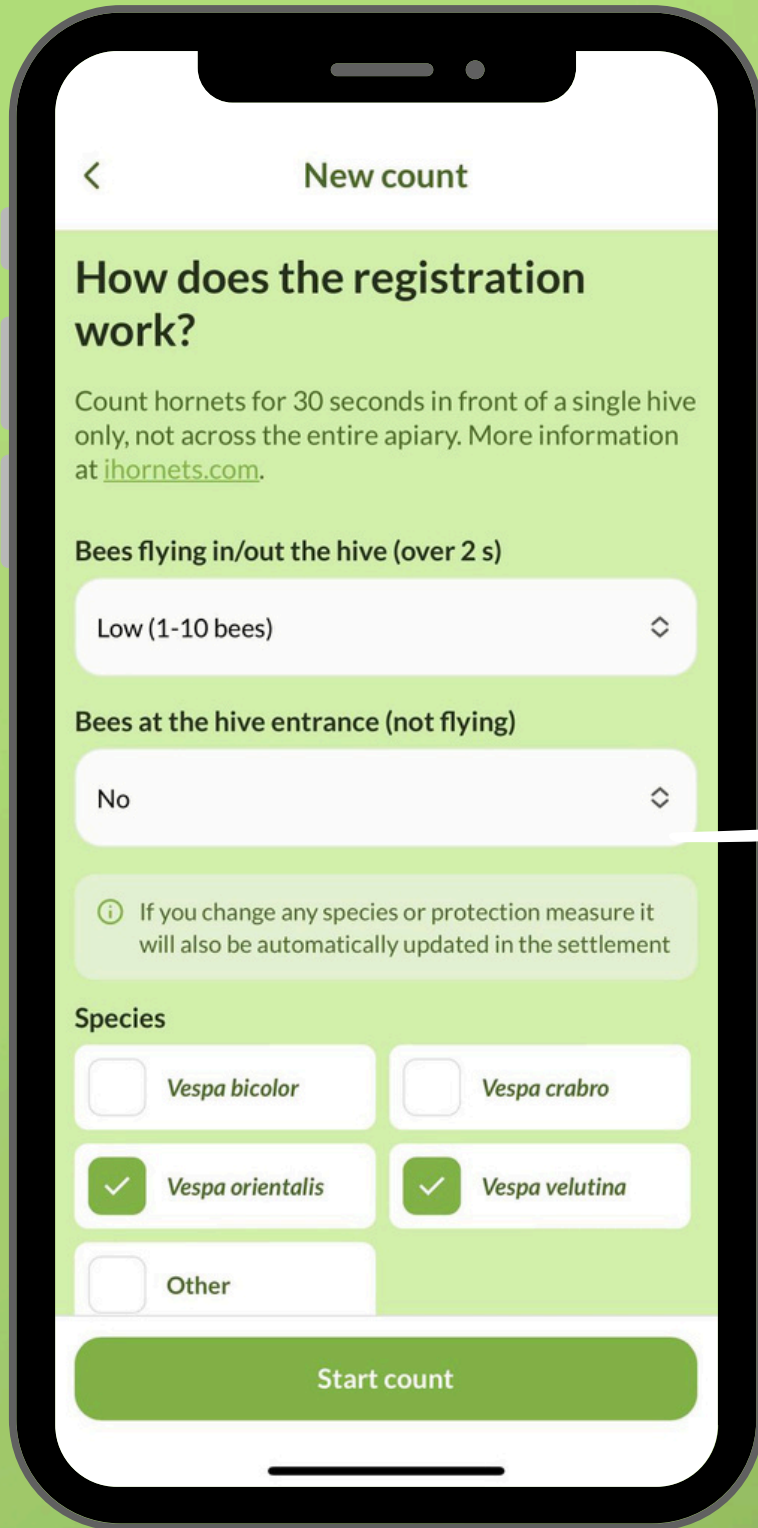
⌂

Once the count has been saved, you will be asked whether you want to **record another count**



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7. Continue counting



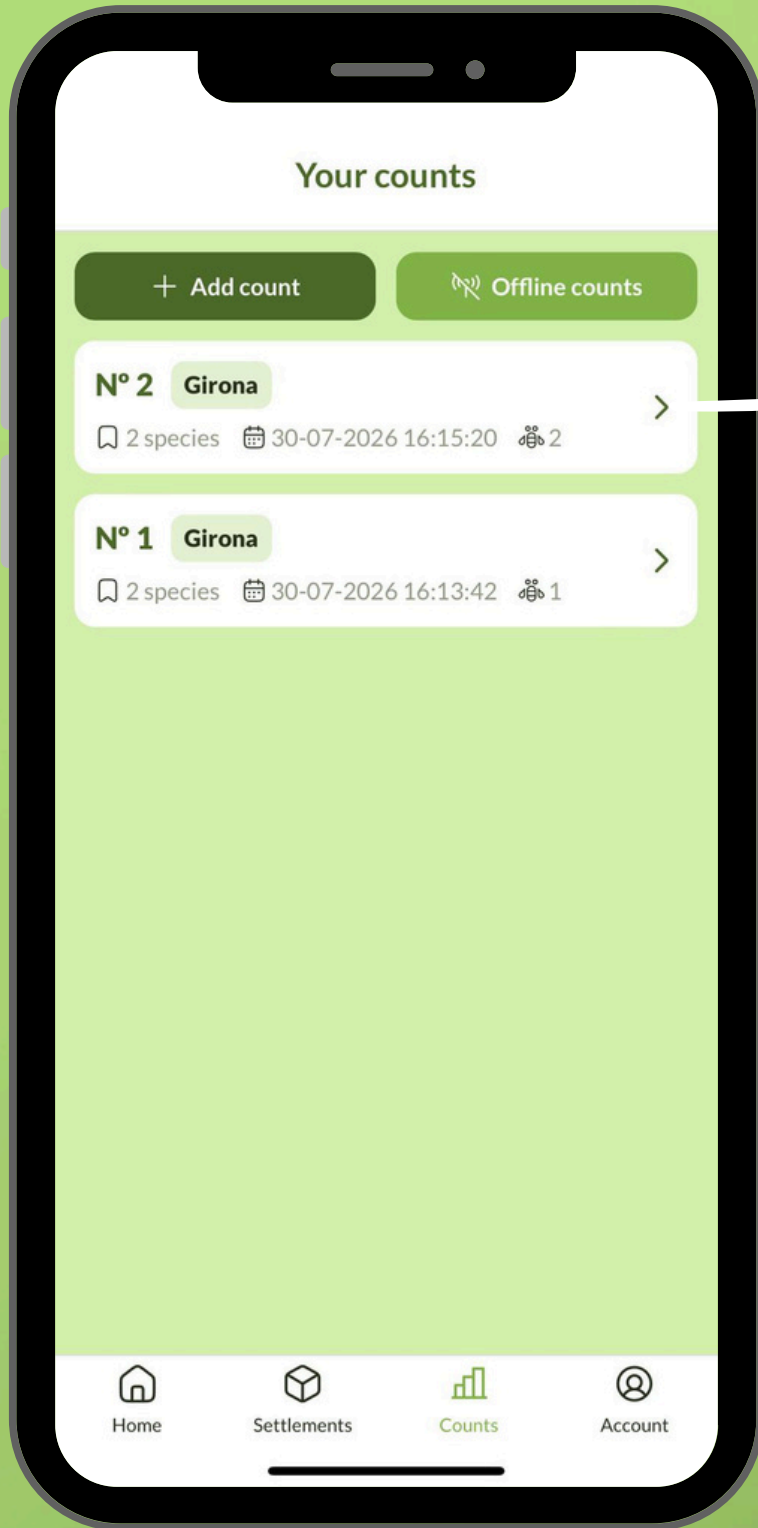
The screenshot shows a mobile app interface titled "New count". At the top is a back arrow and the title. Below is a section "How does the registration work?" with instructions to count hornets for 30 seconds in front of a single hive. It includes a link to ihornets.com. There are two dropdown menus: "Bees flying in/out the hive (over 2 s)" with "Low (1-10 bees)" selected, and "Bees at the hive entrance (not flying)" with "No" selected. A note with an information icon states: "If you change any species or protection measure it will also be automatically updated in the settlement". Under the "Species" section, there are four checkboxes: *Vespa bicolor* (unchecked), *Vespa crabro* (unchecked), *Vespa orientalis* (checked), and *Vespa velutina* (checked). There is also an "Other" checkbox which is unchecked. At the bottom is a large green button labeled "Start count".

To make data entry easier, the new count will inherit the information from the previous one. You can modify it before starting the next count



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8. Delete a counting

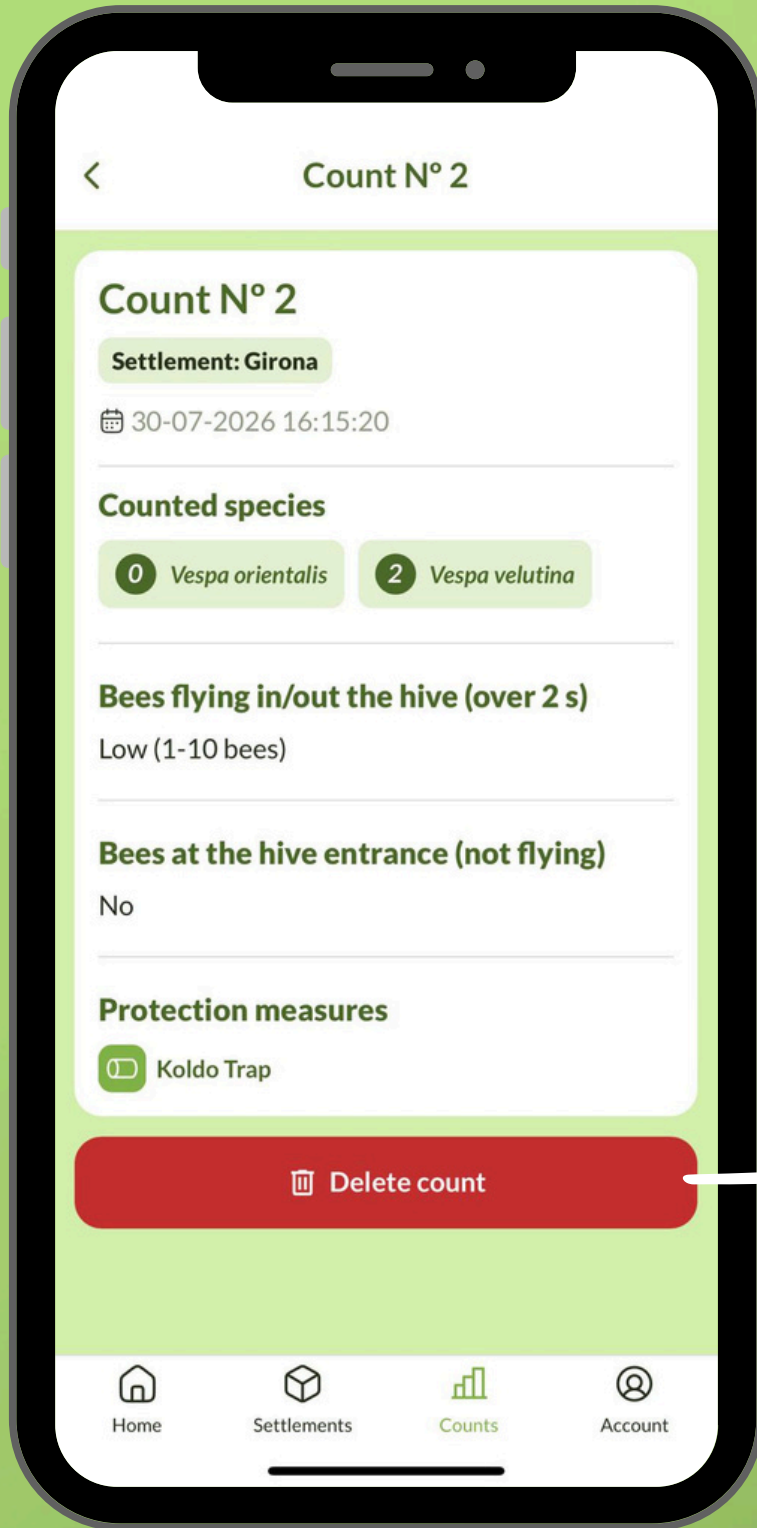


If you realize that you made an error during the count after you have already saved it, you can delete the count by selecting it from the list of counts



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8. Delete a counting

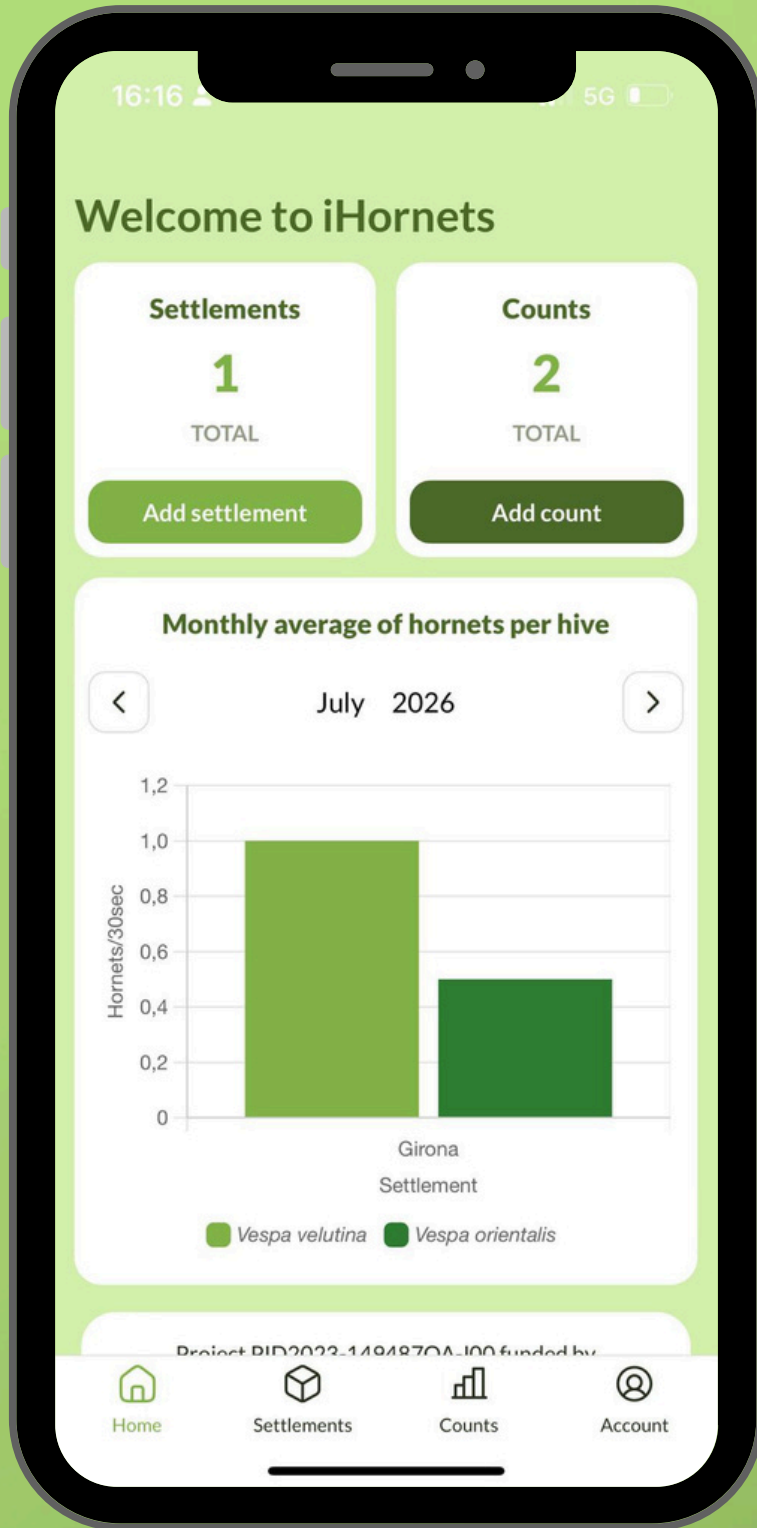


Once the count is selected, click the **Delete count** button



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9. Home page



The home page displays a **summary of the created settlements and recorded hornet counts**, as well as a graph showing the average monthly hornet activity for each apiary



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10. Doubts?

If you have any questions
about using the app or
encounter any problems,
please contact us at:

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CTFC



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**université
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