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Hornet nest.

B. de Vries

WHITE FACED QUEEN WASP ATTACKS CRANE FLY AT THE PAS

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At 8:00 a.m. on 17 June 1982 it was clear, sunny and warm. I observed a white faced wasp pounce on a newly emerged crane fly (*tipulidae*) on the south side of the house. The wasp flew ahead a bit first, having spotted the crane fly on the wall drying its wings. It then backed up while in flight without turning and swiftly pounced on its prey. Both fell to the ground and rolled around with the wasp making attempts to sting. They were briefly out of view having fallen into a bed of flowering Iris. A moment later the wasp flew up holding the crane fly between her legs, the head foremost and the abdomen hanging between the wasp's legs.

In these parts, it is only the females or Queens which overwinter and start their paper nests in early spring. A protein-rich diet may be required to promote rapid growth of the larvae enabling the swift increase in wasp numbers that occurs in our brief summers.