

The extraordinary story of the bees



For children and perhaps for some adults

Bees have been living on earth for 100 million years. The bee is a unique creature in the animal kingdom.

It's the only insect able to make its food and of which human beings exploit the production.

A real little chemical factory, it realizes different foods with a lot of faculties known since Antiquity.

A bee weighs 10 g and it brings back to the hive, half of its weight: 0,05g.

It goes to and fro around twenty tours a day, and for one kilo of honey, it must do 50 000 tours. One kilo of honey represents 40 000km, the equivalent of a journey round the earth

It exchanges the nectar by trophallaxy, itself provoked with antenna contact.

The Queen can lay 2000 eggs a day and can live 4 to 5 years. She is the only one which can lay. So when the hive's workers feel that the queen is going to die, they chose 3 or 5 grubs. They build royal lodges for them, bigger than the other cells. Their mission is to feed these grubs with royal jelly.



This substance is produced by glands situated in the head of certain old workers. It's used to feed all the grubs at the beginning beginning of their lives, then they have a diet with only pollen and honey. The future honey.

The future queens only need royal jelly in order to live 3 to 5 year while grubs fed with p while the grubs fed with pollen live only 5 weeks.

However, only one queen is necessary, though there are several grubs in order to protect the strongest. When the young queens go out of their lodges, the strongest kills the others. So, it's future "childrens" will be strong and valiant.

But it is not finished. After a few days , this young queen prepares her nuptial flight.

All the males are ready to take her place, whereas the rest of the time they don't do anything!

The queen flies very quickly in the sky , and all the males chase her. Several males, around 10 of the speediest, couple her. So, the descendants of this queen will be formed by strong and brave individuals, because their parents are too.

The males die either after coupling, or at the end of the summer if it they haven't coupled.

They are chased away from the hive by the workers which stop feeding them.

In their life, the workers will be successively:

- Housewife
- Foster of the grubs
- Maker of wax for the cells
- Hive guard
- Airing the hive



And lastly, gathering the water and the nectar, then the pollen and finally the propolis.



The hive contains 9 frames; the wax makers build the cell obliquely to stop the honey flowing outside.

Bees are sociable and they don't like bad smells. They sting violent people (movements or words) the most often.

They work without stopping day and night until their death.

The hive's activity never fails even after its opening.

A summer worker lives 5 to 6 weeks and a winter worker 5 to 6 months.

Nowadays, the lives of the bees are under threat, so we must protect them.