

Wild Bees

Kingdom Animalia → Phylum Arthropoda → Class Insecta → Order Hymenoptera



Species: > 20,000

Diet: pollen & nectar

Families: Andrenidae, Apidae, Colletidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae, Melittidae & Stenotritidae



Biology

Most bee species are **solitary**, e.g. mining bees and mason bees.

Honeybees, bumblebees and some species of stingless bees are **social**, living in colonies.

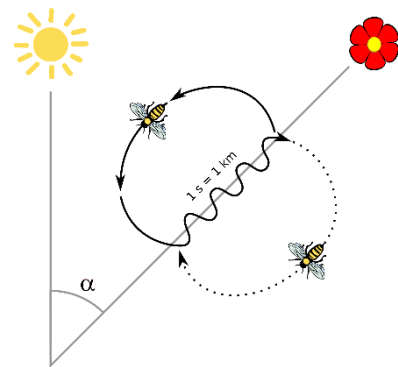
Eusociality is found amongst some species in which worker females are sterile and instead help raise offspring of the queen.

The importance of bees!

Bees are **pollinators**, pollinating 80% of flowering plants. This pollinating service is essential for maintaining habitats for other wildlife, as well as supporting global food production.

Waggle dance

Bees communicate the location of a food source through dancing. The angle of movement in relation to sun indicates the **direction** and the duration of the dance indicates the **distance**. The intensity of wagging indicates the **quality** of the food source.



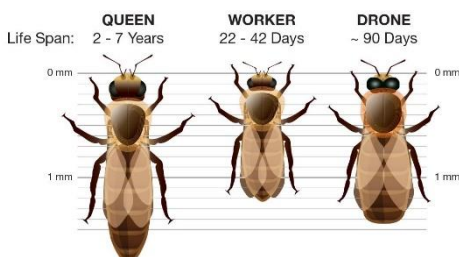
Threatened by

Habitat loss – urbanisation and intensive agricultural development are resulting in loss of key woodland habitat

Climate change alters phenology of flower blooms in spring

Parasites & disease, e.g. *Varroa destructor*

Pesticide use, e.g. neonicotinoids



How you can help

Maintain **wildflower patches** in the garden

Place a **bee house** or log in your garden

Feed tired bees with **sugar solution**

Reduce/stop **pesticide use**

