

- **Beekeeping** (or **apiculture**, from Latin: *apis* "bee") is the maintenance of honey bee colonies, commonly in hives, by humans.
- A beekeeper (or apiarist) keeps bees in order to collect their honey and other products that hive produces (including beeswax, propolis, pollen, and royal jelly), to pollinate crops, or to produce bees for sale to other beekeepers.

Honey bee classification

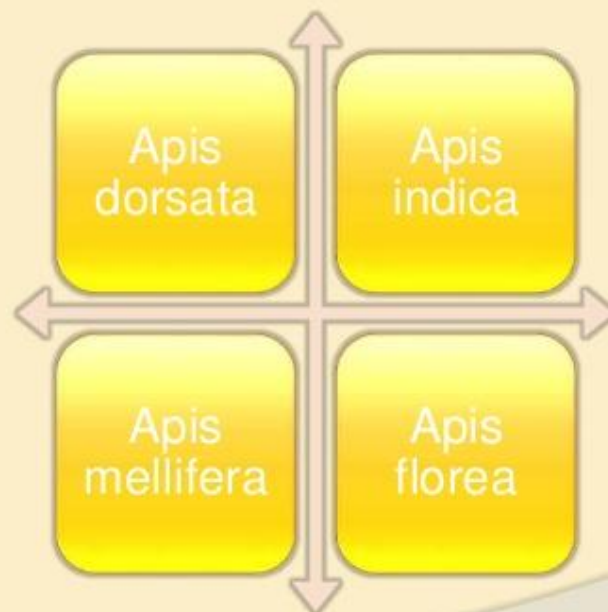
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|----------|-------------|
| ● Phylum | Arthropoda |
| ● Class | Insecta |
| ● Order | Hymenoptera |
| ● Family | Apidae |
| ● Genus | Apis |

Habit and habitat

Honey bees are:

- Organized social insects
- Active more in spring
- Exhibit polymorphism and division of labour.
- Bee hives hang down from the branches
- Workers communicate by the 'Waggle dance'
- Rate of dance \propto Distance of food

Species



Characters:

- Commonly called 'Rock bee'.
- Largest bee of about 20mm, called the GIANT HONEY BEE.
- A single comb makes 60 pounds of honey which is maximum amount of a comb.
- Workers pollinate 12,000 flowers daily.
- Workers are very small and active, and due to their ferocious nature they are NON DOMESTICABLE.

Characters:

- Commonly called as Indian bee or Asian bee.
- Slightly smaller than *A.dorsata*.
- Prefer to live in dark places by making parallel combs of one foot in protected areas.
- This is very gentle species so can be domesticated easily.
- Production of honey is 6 to 7 pounds per comb, which is much less than the first one.

Characters:

- ⦿ Called as the little bee.
- ⦿ Smaller than the both species.
- ⦿ They are not gregarious i.e social. So make a single comb.
- ⦿ Due to docile nature i.e obedient, and rare stinging habit, their nest can be easily removed.

Characters:

- ⦿ It Is called as European bee.
- ⦿ Although bee produces less honey but it is the **BEST SPECIES** for **COMMERCIAL** point of view.
- ⦿ Its ***ITALIAN variety*** is reared everywhere in Europe and America in artificial hives.

How Bees Work Life Cycle

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