

THE BEES' DANCE

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It was a sunny day during the summer time when a little bee was up to work. Her playground is the multicolored flower plain, where her duty is to pick up fresh pollen every day for her beehive. When she reaches the full capacity of her pollen bag, she goes to her "house" to show its brothers and sisters what she has to offer.

I am not sure how many of you know about this, but in order for a bee to indicate the presence of an area with many flowers to its friends, the back of her body starts vibrating in such a way that the other bees know where to go and what to find there.

There is an important relation between bees and flowers. It is said that "bees need flowers in order to survive the same way the flowers need bees to survive and flourish". In other words, for a bee to produce its own honey, it needs the nectar that the flowers have to offer.

And in exchange, the flowers that are being visited by bees are getting the pollination that they need to bloom.

I'll present to you some facts about bees and why are they so important for our day to day life:

- Bees contribute to around 70% of the worldwide agriculture. In other words, 70 out of 100 foods that we eat/drink have in common the work that those bees had to submit.

Some other important facts about bees:

- ✓ In order to produce a kilogram of honey, bees need to visit between 2 and 5 million flowers;
- ✓ The maximum speed a bee can have during her flight is around 70km/hour, but when her pollen bags are full, she can reach a maximum of 20km/hour;
- ✓ In order for a bee to have its pollen bags full, it can visit between 50 and 100 flowers. During this time, the bee is also storing the flower nectar in her stomach where there is a special bag serving this purpose.
- ✓ The distance that bees are usually able to fly in their lifetime is around 800km. During this time, a single bee can produce about half a spoon of honey.
- ✓ If you look in a beehive you will find social ranks. There you will meet the queen which is the most important element in their family, after that you will find the so called "workers", you can find the gatekeepers and the last element of their family are the drones.
- ✓ If you take a look on the percentage, in a beehive you will find 90% workers and 10% drones.
- ✓ Bees do not attack if they are not disturbed. Bees usually attack humans or animals only when their family is being threatened.



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