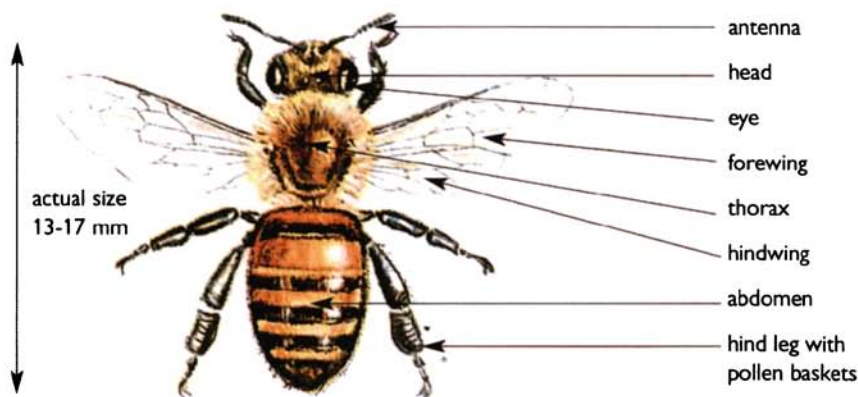


SECTION 9 – AN EXPLANATION OF COMMON BEEKEEPING TERMS



Abdomen

The hind (back) part of a bee (or any insect).

Abscinding

Abscinding occurs when all adult honey bees leave the hive or nest.

Adulteration

To add a substance to another and so destroy the quality of the original. For example to add candle wax to beeswax and sell as beeswax, or to add sugar or corn syrup to honey.

Agroforestry

The use of both trees and agricultural production on the same piece of land to encourage economic and ecological benefits.

Alighting board

A landing board for the bees at the hive entrance.

Alimentary canal

The digestive tract or gut.

Antenna (plural antennae)

Sensory organ found in pairs (two's) on the head of a bee (and other insects). The antennae are sensitive to touch, taste and smell.

Anther

The part of a flower's stamen that produces pollen. The male part of the flower.

Apiary

The location of a number of honey bee colonies.

Apiculture

The science and art of bees and beekeeping.

Apis

The genus to which honey bees belong.

Bait hive

An empty hive placed so that it will be occupied by a swarm of bees.

Bark hive	A hive made from the bark of trees.
Bee	An insect belonging to the superfamily Apoidea. Over 25,000 species of bees have been described.
Bee bread	The name given to pollen stored in the comb – usually around the edges of the brood. It has some honey and moisture added to it during collection.
Bee milk	A liquid produced by worker bees and fed to larvae.
Bee space	A gap large enough for bees to walk and work, for example, the space between two parallel combs or between a comb and the wall of the hive.
Beeswax	Wax produced by honey bees and used to build comb.
Bio-diversity	The number of species (plant and animal) in any given area.
Brace comb	Also known as burr comb. Comb that links combs together or to the side of the hive. Usually built when the bee space is too big.
Brood	All stages of immature honey bees; eggs, larvae and pupae.
Brood nest	The area of the colony where brood is being reared.
Cappings	The almost pure white wax used to seal cells.
Catcher box	See Bait hive.
Cell	A single hexagonal wax compartment, the basic unit of comb. Each honey bee develops within a single cell, and honey and pollen are stored within cells.
Chunk honey	Natural comb honey that is placed in glass jars that are then filled with liquid honey.
Colony	Honey bees are social insects. Each honey bee can only live as part of a colony and not individually. Each colony of honey bees contains one queen bee who is the female parent of the colony, a few hundred drone bees (males) and thousands of worker bees.
Comb	The wax structure made of hexagonal (six-sided) cells in which honey bees rear young and store food.
Corbicula	See Pollen basket.
Creosote	Colourless oily fluid distilled from wood-tar used as a wood preservative.

Cross-pollination	The transfer of pollen between flowers of different plants of the same species. Plants that are not self-fertile must be cross-pollinated before they can develop seeds. Many crops depend upon cross-pollination by insects.
Crown board	A name given to the inner cover of a hive – placed on the top box of the hive to act as a ceiling for the bees. It is covered by the roof.
Cut-comb honey	Pieces of comb containing honey and presented for sale in this way. Honey which has not been extracted.
Dadant hive	A design of American, single wall, frame hive.
Dance	Waggle dance and round dance – methods by which bees communicate the location of suitable forage to other workers.
Desertification	Decline in the productivity of land until it is biologically useless.
Drone	A male honey bee. Drones undertake no work within the hive: their sole function is to fertilize the queen.
Drone congregation area	Drones and virgin queens fly to specific areas to mate – these are known as drone congregation areas.
Extractor	The centrifugal machine in which honey is spun out of cells within comb.
Feeder	A device for giving food in the form of sugar syrup to honey bees.
Fixed-comb hive	A hive in which bees build their nests with the combs attached to the wall of the hive, and therefore fixed.
Food transfer	Worker honey bees give to, and receive from other workers substances from the honey sac or honey stomach. It is thought to be another form of communication.
Forage	Flowering plants which provide nectar and/or pollen for bees.
Forager	A worker honey bee that collects pollen, nectar, water or propolis for the colony.
Foundation	A thin sheet of beeswax usually embossed with the hexagonal pattern of comb placed in each wooden frame where it serves as a base upon which honey bees build their comb.

Frame	A wooden rectangular frame that holds a sheet of wax foundation. A number of frames hang parallel to one another inside the hive.
Frame hive	A hive which contains frames. The honey bees are encouraged to build their comb within these frames. The frames then enable combs to be lifted from the hive for examination.
Granulated honey	Honey in which sugar crystals have formed.
Guard bees	Bees that stand at the colony entrance facing outward, front legs raised and pass their antennae over bees entering the hive. They attack other insects, wasps and strange bees.
Herbicide	A chemical formulation that is designed to help increase crop yields by selectively killing weeds and other unwanted growth. Can be poisonous to bees.
Hive	Any container provided by humans for bees to nest in.
Hive tool	A simple tool used to open hives, remove frames and scrape off wax and propolis.
Honey	Nectar or plant sap ingested by bees, concentrated by them and stored in combs.
Honey bees	Species of bees belonging to the genus <i>Apis</i> .
Honey hunting	Plundering wild bee colonies for their honey.
Honeydew	Insects such as aphids feed on large quantities of plant sap which they excrete almost unchanged. This sap collects on the leaves of plants and if collected by honey bees is known as honeydew.
Insecticide	See Pesticide.
Kenya top-bar hive	A design of top-bar hive with sloping sides.
Langstroth hive	A design of frame hive. The inventor, the Rev L Langstroth recognized the importance of bee space and this allowed him to design the movable-frame hive.
Life cycle	The four stages a bee passes through: egg – larva – pupa – adult bee.
Low-technology hive	A hive which is simple, cheap, reliable, mendable.
Lug	A projection at the end of the top bar of a frame. This rests on a runner and so suspends the frame in the hive.

Mandible	The jaw of an insect.
Manipulation	The skilled management of a hive by the movement, addition or removal of combs at certain points in the development of the colony.
Mead	An alcoholic drink made from fermentation of honey.
Meliponinae	The sub-family to which all stingless bees belong.
Migration	Seasonal movements of whole honey bee colonies, leaving no brood behind in the nest.
Migratory beekeeping	Beekeepers moving colonies of honey bees in hives to take advantage of honey flows in other areas.
Mites	These are not insects but are more closely related to spiders having eight legs. There are some mites that live on or in bees and spread disease.
Movable-frame hive	A hive containing frames.
Nasonov pheromone	A substance produced by a bee's Nasonov gland to attract other bees.
Nectar	A sweet liquid secreted by flowers, a watery solution of various sugars.
Nectaries	The glands within plants that produce nectar.
Nest	The place where the comb or combs of a bee colony are sited.
NGO	Non-governmental organization, usually a non-profit group working for development.
Nucleus	A small colony of bees created by a beekeeper from an existing colony or colonies.
Pacifier	A substance used to calm bees.
Package bees	Supplies of bees produced for sale. Sold by weight, including a caged queen but without combs. Supplied in a box with wire mesh forming two sides.
Pesticide	A chemical formulation that is designed to increase the yield of crops by attacking pests which damage that crop. Often these are not selective and kill beneficial insects as well.
Pheromone	A chemical substance produced by a bee (or any animal) to convey a precise message to another of the same species.

Pollen	The fine dust-like substances which are the male reproductive cells of flowering plants. Collected by bees as a source of protein.
Pollen basket	Areas of stiff hairs on the hind legs of worker honey bees where they carry pollen.
Pollen trap	A device for harvesting pollen from bee hives.
Pollination	The transfer of pollen from the anther of a flower to the stigma of that of another flower.
Proboscis	The mouth parts of an insect.
Protective clothing	Body protection from stings.
Queen	The female parent of the colony, the only sexually developed female.
Queen excluder	A sheet, usually of metal, with holes that permit only workers to pass through, thus excluding the queen. It is placed between the brood box and the super to prevent eggs being laid in the honey storage area.
Refractometer	An instrument which can be used to measure the refractive index of honey (from this the sugar concentration of the honey can be calculated).
Royal jelly	Glandular secretions of worker honey bees mixed with some regurgitated carbohydrates and fed to developing bees.
Scout bees	Worker honey bees that are responsible for locating new sources of forage, or a new home for a swarm.
Smoker	A device for generating smoke to subdue bees. Often made from a metal can with bellows attached.
Smoker fuel	Material which can be burnt in the smoker, ideally to produce cool smoke over a long period.
Solar wax extractor	A piece of equipment in which the sun's heat is used to produce clean wax from used combs and odd scraps from the apiary.
Stamen	The male reproductive organ of a flower. It consists of a stalk on the end of which is the anther.
Stigma	The receptive part of the female reproductive organ of a flower which receives the pollen.
Super	Any hive box placed above the brood nest. Usually contains combs in which bees will store honey.

Sustainable beekeeping	Beekeeping to benefit humans while also ensuring the safe conservation of the bees and their habitat.
Sustainable development	Improvement which will continue supporting life in the future.
Swarming	When a honey bee colony becomes large enough to divide into two, swarming takes place.
Top-bar hive	A low-technology hive in which the bees are encouraged to build their combs suspended from bars placed across the top of the hive.
Traditional beekeeping	Beekeeping methods which were already in use prior to the invention of modern frame hives. Many traditional methods are highly skilled and in use today.
Transitional hive	A term sometimes used for top-bar hives referring to them as mid-level technology between traditional beekeeping (low-technology) and frame-hive beekeeping (high-technology).
Venom	The poison of a bee's sting.
Wax moths	Species of moths which destroy combs.
Worker bees	Female honey bees that make up the bulk of the colony and undertake all the work of the colony except for mating and egg-laying. Workers are sterile females.