

SECRETS OF THE FOREST IN A POLLEN BASKET

The forest is home for wild honey bees and they keep themselves busy throughout the day (and sometimes through the night) collecting pollen and nectar from plants. The bees collect the pollen and store it in little pockets or baskets that they have on their hind legs. Through the pollen one can describe what trees, climbers, shrubs and herbs there are in the forest. Honey bees are fantastic indicators of the health of the ecosystem.

The science of studying pollen from honey and honey bees is called Melissopalynology.

The pollen tell us -

1. About the plants that are important to bees
2. The flowers that contribute nectar to make the honey
3. Origin of the honey from a region and helps to certify the product.



FACTS

- Bee bread is a mixture of pollen and nectar or honey and is the main source of food for honey bee workers and larvae.
- Honey bees take pollen and nectar from around 3,52,000 flowering plants
- Depending on the diversity of pollen, the honey is categorised as monofloral or multifloral
- Approximately 1,42,300 - 2,82,100 pollen have been counted in 10 gms of honey