

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

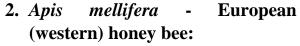
ENT -321 Management of Beneficial Insects 2 (1+1)

Lecture-3 Various Bess and their Characters:

The main honey producing bees belong to family Apidae of Hymenoptera. They are:

1. Apis florea – Little honey bee:

- ➤ Apis florea and Apis and reniformis are small honey bees of southern and southeastern Asia
- ➤ They make very small vertical comb, exposed nests in trees and shrubs
- ➤ Their stings are often incapable of penetrating human skin, so the hive and swarms can be handled with minimal protection
- ➤ They produce 1/ 2 kg to 1 kg honey per comb
- ➤ Due to high absconding tendency, they cannot be kept in artificial bee hive



- ➤ European honey bee originated from Italy
- ➤ It is the most commonly domesticated species
- ➤ The behaviour is similar to Apis indica
- ➤ The average production of honey is 50 60 kg per hive.
- ➤ It has gentle temperament and good honey gathering ability
- > Swarming tendency is very less
- ➤ It has revolutionized bee keeping in India





3. Apis cerana indica – Indian bee:

- ➤ It makes parallel combs on trees and rocks
- > It can be easily domesticated
- > Swarming tendency is very high
- ➤ Distributed all over the country up to 3000 ft above mean sea level
- ➤ On an average it produces 8- 10 kg of honey per hive
- ➤ It is susceptible to wax moth, absconding is common



4. Apis dorsata - Rock bee or giant bee:

- > They are most ferocious and they make largest hives
- ➤ They cannot be kept in artificial hive
- ➤ During summer they migrate to avoid high temperature
- They make nest in trees, rocks and roof of buildings
- Swarming tendency is very high
- ➤ They produce 35 40 kg of honey per comb
- ➤ Efficient pollinators of agricultural and horticultural crops.

