



**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 andreniformis* 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



#### 2. *Apis mellifera* - European (western) honey bee:

- 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.

