RESEARCH ARTICLE

FORAGING BEHAVIOR OF EUROPEAN HONEY BEE, *APIS MELLIFERA* (HYMENOPTERA-APIDAE) IN MARIGOLD FLOWERS IN CHHATTISGARH, INDIA

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All India Coordinated Research Project on Honey Bees and Pollinators
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Abstract: A study was undertaken at Raj Mohini Devi College of Agriculture and Research station, Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh) substation of Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) India. The foraging behavior of European honey bee, *Apis mellifera* was observed in unmanaged French marigold red cherry (Genda) during January to February 2020. The maximum foraging activity of honey bee was observed third week of January 2020 (2.05 bees/5min/plant) followed by fourth week of January 2020 (1.87 bees/5min/plant) and first week of January 2020 (1.53 bees/5min/plant) however the lowest population was recorded during third week of February 2020(0.73 bees/5min/plant).Similarly during the different hours of the day the maximum population of honey bees were recorded at 10.00-12.00 Noon (2.41 bees/5min/plant) followed by at 12.00-2.00PM(1.63 bees/5min/plant)and at 2.00-4.00PM (0.74 bees/5min/plant). However the lowest population was recorded at 8.00-10.00AM (0.64 bees/5min/plant).

Keywords: Foraging behavior, French marigold red cherry, *Tegetes patula*, European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, Marigold

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