RESEARCH ARTICLE

FORAGING BEHAVIOUR OF GIANT BEE, *APIS DORSATA* (HYMENOPTERA-APIDAE) ON *AGERATUM CONYZOIDES* IN NORTHERN HILL ZONE OF CHHATTISGARH

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Abstract: A field investigation was undertaken at Raj Mohini Devi College of Agriculture and Research Station, Ambikapur under substation of Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur (C.G.) during 2016-17 for the purpose of foraging behaviour of rock bee, *Apis dorsata* on *Ageratum conyzoides*. During the first week of October the bee visitation was recorded minimum at 0900hrs (0.83 bees/5min/m^2) and it was suddenly increased at 1100hrs (2.77 bees/5min/m^2), after that it was declined (1.66 bees/5min/m^2) at 1300hrs and 1.11 bees/5min/m^2 at 1500hrs and the lowest was recorded (0.72 bees/5min/m^2) at 1700hrs and the mean bee population was recorded (1.41 bees/5min/m^2). The average maximum bee population (5.43 bees/5min/m^2) was recorded during the 2nd week of January 2017 followed by 2nd week of Nov 2016 (5.00 bees/5min/m^2). However, at the hours of the day the bee visitation was noticed (2.51 bees/5min/m^2) at 0900hrs and increased its peak at 1100hrs (7.67 bees/5min/m^2) and it was started declined (5.83 bees/5min/m^2) at 1300hrs, 3.05 bees/5min/m^2 at 1500hrs and 1.37 bees/5min/m^2 at1700hrs. The highest average population was recorded at 1100hrs(7.67bees/5min/m^2).

Keywords: *Apis dorsata*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, Foraging behaviour, Weed.

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