

## FORAGING ACTIVITY OF STINGLESS BEE, *TETRAGONULA IRIDIPENNIS* SMITH (HYMENOPTERA-APIDAE-MELIPONINAE) IN SUNFLOWER

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All India Coordinated Research project on Honey Bees and Pollinators  
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**Abstract:** A field observation was undertaken during 2018-19 to study the foraging activity of stingless bee on different hours of the day on sunflower. The observation was started from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April 2019 to 4<sup>th</sup> week of May 2019. The population of bee (5.05 bees/ 5 plants/5min/plot) was recorded in between 8.00-9.00AM. It was recorded least among all over the five observations. However, its population was increased suddenly and reached its peak (8.17 bees/5plant/5min) in between 10.00 to 11.00AM followed by (5.17 bees/5plants/5minutes) at 12.00- 13.00 PM, (7.14 bees/5plants/5 minutes) at 14.00-15.00 PM and (5.12 bees/5plants/5 minutes) in between 16.00-17.00PM. The maximum blooming period and population of bees was recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2019 (9.08 bees/5plants/5 minutes) followed by 4<sup>th</sup> week of April (7.92 bees/5plants/5 minutes) and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April (6.56 bees/5plants/5 minutes) however, the lowest population was recorded on 4<sup>th</sup> week of May (3.6 bees/5plants/5 minutes).

**Keywords:** Foraging activity, Sunflower, Stingless bee, *Tetragonula iridipennis*, Meliponinae

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