

HONEY BEE FLORA AND FLORAL CALENDER IN NORTH ZONE OF CHHATTISGARH

G.P. Painkra*, J.P. Harinkhere and P.K. Bhagat

All India Coordinated Research Project on Honey bees and Pollinators, IGKV
Raj Mohini Devi College of Agriculture & Research Station, Ambikapur,
Distt. Surguja (C.G.) Pin 497001

Received-09.03.2015, Revised-12.04.2015

Abstract: A study was conducted at Surguja district of Chhattisgarh during 2014-15 to identify the bee flora and to develop the floral calendar for honey bee. Based on the interview with the beekeepers and visual observations, some important plant species were identified as a major source of flora for honey bee. Spring season (March to June) autumn season (July to October) identified as critical dearth period with a few flowering plants. Winter season (November to February) identified as honey flow period having a number of floral plants viz. *Guizotia abyssinica*, *Brassica spp.*, *Citrus spp.*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Eucaliptus*, Mango, Shisham, Semal, Pea, ornamental plants-Popy, Calendula, Nastertium, Holyhock, *Justicia*, *Berbina*, weed flora *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Bidens pilosa*, and medicinal plants like Adusa, Bhring raj, *Justicia*, aswagandha, karanj were the major bee flora. This season was identified as the most suitable for initiation and promotion of beekeeping practices.

Keywords: Bee Flora, Beekeeping, Floral calendar

REFERENCES

- Atwal, A. S., Bains, S. S. and Singh, B.** (1970). Bee flora for four species of *Apis* at Ludhiana. *Indian J. Ent.* **32** (4): 330-34.
- Bhatia, R.** (2007). Diversity of bee flora and its calendar of availability in the lower shivalik hills of Kangra (H.P). *J. Insect. Sc.* **20** (1):70-75.
- Chand, H. and Singh, R.** (2005). Aadhunik Madhumakhi Palan. Kalyani Publishers P,70-76.
- Sharma, O. P. and Raj, D.** (1985). Diversity of bee flora in Kangra Shivaliks and its impact on beekeeping. *Indian Bee J.* **47**: 21-24.
- Singh, P. N. and Singh, R. P.** (1980). Bee forage plants of Gorakhpur. *Indian Bee J.* **48**: 44-46
- Shaw, S. S., Thakur, B.S., Ganguli, R.N. and Nema, S.** (2008). Status and Prospects of Beekeeping in Chhattisgarh State. *National Conference on Pest Management Strategies for Food Security*. P 42-55.

*Corresponding Author