

Apis mellifera
Honeybee

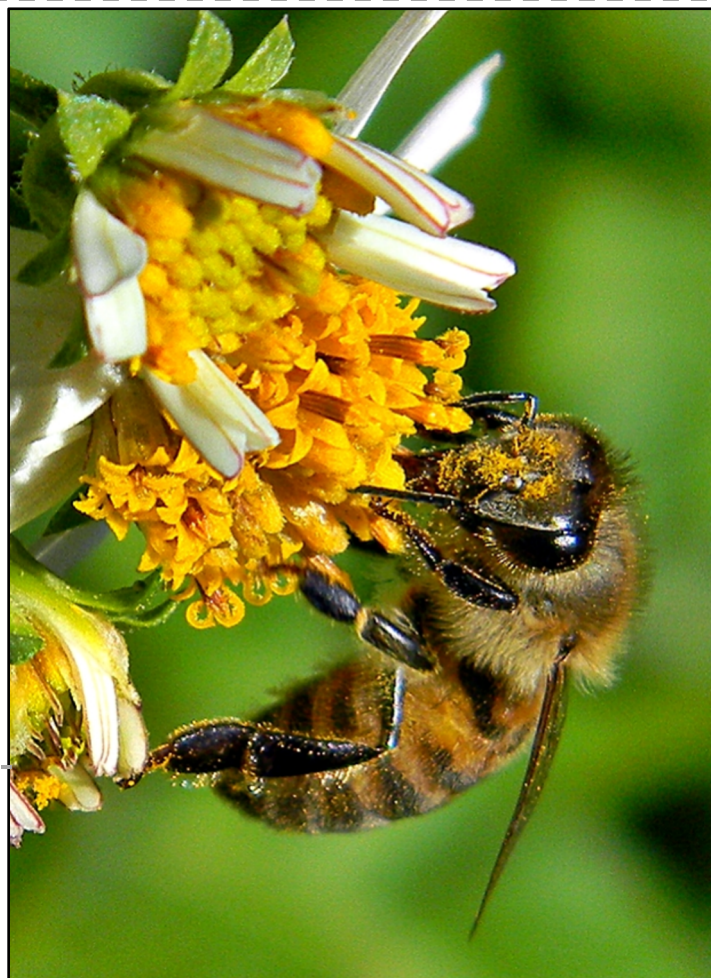
Why Observe?

Honeybees are some of the most numerous and effective pollinators in the world. Honey bees are the most commonly used commercial pollinator in the US. Populations of honeybees have been drastically declining, putting many agriculture crops at risk of declines as well.

Tips for Identification

Distinct barrel-shaped body with no thin section between the thorax and abdomen. They have hairs all over their body and head. Males tend to be larger, have thicker bodies, and the eyes look close together from the top of the head.

Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your animal may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a “?” for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



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Adults

One or more adults are seen moving about or at rest.

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Male adults

One or more adult males are seen moving about or at rest. For *Apis mellifera*, males (drones) are larger than the female worker bees and do not have a stinger.

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Flower visitation

One or more individuals are seen visiting flowers or flying from flower to flower. If possible, record the name of the plant or describe it in the comments field.

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Mating

A male and female are seen coupled in a mating position, usually with the male on top of the female.



Nest building

One or more adults are seen building a nest or hive. For *Apis mellifera*, worker bees build a wax hive consisting of many adjacent hexagonal cells.

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Nest provisioning

One or more adults are seen entering the nest with pollen. For *Apis mellifera*, pollen is carried on the hind legs in bright yellow, orange, or white pollen baskets.

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Phenophases not pictured: Drone cells, Eggs, Larvae, Pupae, Dead adults, Individuals in a trap