

Check your understanding



1 What is the difference between nurse bees and forager bees?

Answer [Nurse bees stay in the hive and feed the babies (larvae) with the pollen and nectar which the forager bees provide. Forager bees travel near (and far) of the hive to collect pollen and then give it to the nurse bees. Forager bees also collect nectar which they give to specialized bees that store and produce raw honey.]

2 Why did we analyze nurse bees instead of foragers?

Answer [Nurse bees are the ones who try the pollen's taste, forager bees only collect it.]

3 If the southeast pollen had the highest protein:fat ratio, does it contain more proteins than fats, or the other way around?

Answer [It contains more proteins than fats.]

4 Southeast pollen had the highest protein:fat ratio but the bees liked it the least. And the insects which consumed this kind of pollen had the smallest glands. What do you think – are proteins more important for bee growth than fats?

Answer [Since the P:F ratio is high it means the pollen contains a lot more protein than fat. However, this high concentration of proteins did not promote large glands which means fats are more important for the bees' growth.]

5 Honey bees are important pollinators. Can you think of other creatures that also pollinate?

Answer [Bumblebees, bats, birds, butterflies, moths, even some monkeys and lizards pollinate flowers.]