



Honey Bees - Biology

Glossary of Honey Bee Life Stages

Adult — a fully formed, mature honey bee.

Beebread — a mixture of nectar and pollen.

Bee metamorphosis — the four stages of transformation in the life of a honey bee.

Brood — the offspring produced by the colony (eggs and larvae).

Cell — a hexagonal chamber built of beeswax for brood rearing and storage of honey and pollen.

Drone — a male honey bee that is produced from an unfertilized egg.

Drone cell — a brood cell that is larger than the normal worker brood cells and in which the queen deposits drone eggs.

Egg — laid by a queen bee, this is the first stage in the life of a honey bee.

Larva — hatched from the egg the queen bee lays, the larva will pupate and eventually turn into an adult insect.

Nectar — a sweet liquid secreted by flowers of various plants.

Pollen — the fine, powder-like material produced by the anthers of flowering plants.

Pupa — the third stage in a bee's life, during which the larva's body changes into that of an adult.

Queen — a female bee that lays eggs.

Royal jelly — a milky, yellow syrup that is very high in protein, that young worker bees secrete from glands inside their heads and feed to larvae.

Workers — female bees who build and guard the hive, look after the queen and gather food.