

THE REPRODUCTIVE STRATEGIES OF HONEYBEE WORKERS (*APIS MELLIFERA* L.)

Summary

Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) belongs to eusocial insects, which are characterized by reproductive division of labor. In a well-functioning honey bee colony, reproduction is performed by a queen while workers perform all other tasks. Also, the workers are not completely sterile and there are situations when they can lay unfertilized eggs from which almost exclusively males (drones) hatch. This paper describes the contemporary state of knowledge on the evolution of different reproductive strategies in worker honey bee.

Reproductive strategies of workers, which stay in a queenright colony is described. It is shown that the reproductive behavior of workers, both in the wild subspecies honeybee as well as in those, which are characterized by rare mutations. Also, the reproductive potential of workers in queenless colonies where workers have no chance to rear a new queen is demonstrated. All this is supplemented by a description of the latest finding concerning the reproductive strategies of honeybee workers.