

COMPARATIVE STUDIES ON DIFFERENT HONEYBEE POLLEN TYPES AND THEIR EFFECT ON ROYAL JELLY PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Three pollen types collected by honeybee were chosen (German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen) to study their effects on royal jelly production of honeybee colonies (F1 Carniolan hybrid) and study the chemical composition of pollen types on royal jelly produced.

From the results the following aspects could be concluded:

- 1- Feeding with 200 g/ week German pollen gave the largest mean quantity of royal jelly g/ colony during the study period.
- 2-No significant appearance was found between the feeding with 100g / week and 200 g/ week German pollen.
- 3- Feeding with Chinese pollen gave the same results of German pollen.

Total lipid values of German, Chinese and Egyptian pollen were 12.0, 10.3 and 9.2 g/100g pollen, nitrogen content values of pollen were 5.0, 5.0 and 5.7 g/100g., crude protein were 31.25, 31.25 and 35.6 g/100g pollen ,respectively. Also the carbohydrates values were 48.0, 46.7 and 47.2 g/100g pollen ,respectively. The total lipid values of royal jelly were 8.3, 8.59 and 8.54 g/100g royal jelly, nitrogen content values of royal jelly were 1.6, 1.5 and 1.5g/100g, crude protein of royal jelly were 10.0,9.3 and 9.3 g/100g royal jelly, the carbohydrates values of royal jelly were 10.1, 9.3 and 11.5 g/100g royal jelly ,respectively , the pH of royal jelly were 3.81, 3.90 and 3.92 ,respectively. While, the moisture values of royal jelly production from German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 69.4, 66.5 and 68.5 % royal jelly ,respectively .

INTRODUCTION

Like animals, honeybees have to consume certain essential nutrients with their food. Pollen is their main source of proteins, minerals , fats and several other substances , while nectar provides the bulk of carbohydrates (Herbert, 1992). The adult bees of a colony obtain their dietary protein from the pollen the workers collect and bring back to the hive or from nitrogenous food-stuffs provided by the beekeeper. (Standifer *et al.*, 1977).

Different pollen types were found to vary considerably in their effectiveness, with some low quality pollen types having as little impact on physiological development as pure carbohydrate diet (Maurizio, 1950). Oilseed rape pollen contained a greater proportion of the most essential amino acids required by honey bees (valine, leucine, and isoleucine) than field bean, suggesting that oilseed rape pollen is of greater nutritional quality for honey bees than is field bean pollen. Honey bee foraging preferences appeared to reflect pollen quality. The hypothesis that pollen amino acid composition affects the foraging behavior of honey bees (Cook *et al.*, 2003).

Proteins of a precise quality and definite amino acid composition are required for optimum growth of young adult bees and for development of the brood food-producing hypopharyngeal glands of nurse worker bees. If nurse bees do not get pollen or some other appropriate protein source, their brood food gland secretions are not adequate for support of normal growth and development of the larvae and egg production of the queen. (Standifer *et al.*, 1977). Lipids are important to honeybees primarily as a source of energy, with some components of lipids involved in the synthesis of reserve fat and glycogen, and membrane structure of cells (Graham 1992). Lipid components such as fatty acids, sterols etc. are important in honeybee development, nutrition and reproduction. Singh *et al.*, 1999 suggested that pollen lipids play a considerable role in honey bee preference for pollen collection.

Three pollen types collected by honeybees were chosen, (Egyptian, German and Chinese pollen) to study their effects on royal jelly production and study the chemical composition of three pollen types and royal jelly produced.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in Shubramint, Giza, Egypt on twenty one F1 Carniolan hybrid colonies during the seasons 2001 & 2002.

I- Preparing of the experimented colonies

In this respect, virgin queens (F1 Carniolan hybrid) were reared through the Jenter device. A newly mated queens were divided into three groups as follows with 3 colonies each:

Group (1) was left for plants cultivated in the area (control) under the environmental condition (clover was the main plant).

Group (2) was fed on bee pollen imported from Germany (50, 100 and 200g./week).

Group (3) was fed on bee pollen imported from China (50, 100 and 200g./week).

Production of Royal Jelly Material :

The Jenter device was processed to produce the royal jelly material. 10 queen cell cups with newly hatched larvae were provided to each deprived colony of the experiment. Collection of royal jelly material was achieved in deprived colonies after 3 days of transfer the cell cups. Collected royal jelly was kept in plastic capsule after being weighed and were put in deep freeze running at $-18\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ till the chemical analysis would be processed.

Chemical analysis of pollen and royal jelly :-

A total lipid concentration in the pollen and royal jelly samples was determined according to the A.O.A.C. (1995).

The total protein content was determined material in terms of organic nitrogen content by semi-microKjeldahl method according to Loiseleur (1963) in pollen and royal jelly.

Determination of carbohydrate contents in pollen and royal jelly was carried out according to the method of Dubois *et al.* (1956).

Table 1: Effect of feeding with 50, 100 and 200 g / week German pollen (multiflora), on royal jelly production in Giza governorate (March –November) 2002 .

Months	Wight of royal jelly g / colony			
	feeding with 50 g (Gp)	feeding with 100 g (Gp)	Feeding with 200 g (Gp)	Control (Ep)
March	20.236	25.245	29.478	12.103
April	26.121	30.918	35.824	17.110
May	28.125	29.824	34.734	22.122
June	21.329	25.458	28.925	16.192
July	17.194	20.357	29.158	16.107
August	14.254	17.589	20.528	10.119
September	13.521	16.627	19.725	09.111
October	09.897	15.348	17.258	07.102
November	09.354	12.758	14.824	03.135
Total	160.03	194.12	230.45	109.97
Mean	17.78	21.56	25.60	12.21
L.S.D. 5%	4.85	3.58	3.97	4.78

Determination of pH Value approximately (1g) of royal jelly was dissolved in 5 ml of deionized water and the pH was then measured by a pH meter (A.O.A.C. , 1980).

Determination of the moisture content of royal jelly was carried out according to the standard method of the Association of Official Analytical Chemist (A.O.A.C. , 1980).

Chemical studies were achieved in the laboratory of Bee Research , Plant protection Institute , Agriculture Research Centre.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The mean weight of royal jelly produced from different colonies treatments as in (Table 1).

Feeding with German pollen (50 g/week): Results of the statistical analysis showed that there was significant t - Reject the Hypothesis Confidence limits for the difference of the means (for alpha=0.05) t value : 6.368 and feeding with 100 g/ week showed that there was significant t - Reject the Hypothesis Confidence limits for the difference of the means (for alpha=0.05) t value : 9.137, While feeding with 200 g/week German pollen showed that there was significant t - Reject the Hypothesis Confidence limits for the difference of the means (for alpha=0.05) t value : 12.390

These data showed also that there was positive correlation between the weight of feeding pollen and royal jelly production.

From the previous results the following aspects could be concluded:

- 1- Feeding with 200 g / week German pollen gave the largest mean quantity of royal jelly g / colony during the study period.

2-No significant appearance was found between the feeding with 100 g/ week and 200 g / week German pollen.

As shown in Table (2) the mean weight of Royal Jelly g/ colony when

Table 2: Effect of feeding with 50, 100 and 200 g/week Chinese pollen on royal jelly production in Giza governorate (March – November) 2002.

Months	Wight of royal jelly g / colony			
	feeding with 50 g(Cp)	feeding with 100 g (Cp)	feeding with 200 g(Cp)	Control (Ep)
March	40.358	44.514	49.428	12.103
April	35.758	38.298	44.785	17.110
May	33.624	35.429	39.952	22.122
June	29.429	33.583	35.624	16.192
July	26.528	29.624	33.825	16.107
August	12.645	15.758	16.579	10.119
September	11.398	12.693	15.741	09.111
October	9.291	11.392	13.624	07.102
November	4.614	6.541	8.524	03.135
Total	203.65	227.83	258.08	113.10
Mean	22.63	25.31	28.68	12.57
L.S.D. 5%	3.51	2.97	3.41	3.57

feeding with 50, 100 and 200 g / week Chinese pollen for royal jelly production at Giza governorate (season 2002) :

Feeding with Chinese pollen (50 g/week) showed that there was significant t - Reject the Hypothesis Confidence limits for the difference of the means (for alpha=0.05) t value : 3.288, and feeding with 100 g / week showed that there was significant t - Reject the Hypothesis Confidence limits for the difference of the means (for alpha=0.05) t value: 3.895. While feeding with 200 g/ week showed that there was significant t - Reject the Hypothesis Confidence limits for the difference of the means (for alpha=0.05) t value : 4.343.

These data showed also that there was positive correlation between the weight of pollen feeding and royal jelly production.

From the previous results the following aspects could be concluded:

- 1- Feeding with 200 g / week Chinese pollen gave the largest mean quantity of Royal Jelly g / colony during the study period .
- 2-No significant appearance was found between the Feeding with 100 g / week and 200 g / week Chinese pollen.

Chemical Composition of Pollen types:

Honey bees require proteins (amino acids), carbohydrates (sugars), lipids (fatty acids, sterols), vitamins, minerals (salts), and water, and these nutrients must be in the diet in a definite qualitative and quantitative ratio for optimum nutrition (Standifer *et al.*, 1977).

Table (3) shows that the total lipid values of German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 12.0, 10.3 and 9.2 g/100g pollen respectively. Data in table (3) shows that the crude protein of German,

Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 31.25, 31.25 and 35.6 g/100g pollen ,respectively. Also nitrogen content values of pollen were 5.0, 5.0 and 5.7 g /100g for the same respect. Data in table (3) shows that the carbohydrates of German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 48.0, 46.7 and 47.2 g / 100 g, respectively.

Chemical Composition of Royal Jelly

Royal jelly is a thick milky food which is a glandular secretion from hypopharyngeal glands of the young nursing worker bees to feed young larvae and the adult queen. The principal constituents of royal jelly are water, protein, sugars, lipids and mineral salts. Although they occur with notable variations the composition of royal jelly remains relatively constant when comparing different colonies, bee races and time (Krell, 1996).

The chemical constituents of royal jelly determined were, total lipid, nitrogen, crude protein, in addition carbohydrates, pH and moisture content .

Data in table (4) shows that the total lipid values of royal jelly production from German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 8.3, 8.59 and 8.54 g/100g royal jelly. These results are agreement with authors , lipids constitute 3.5 – 19.0 % of royal jelly of dry weight (Palma 1992 , Echigo *et al.*, 1986 and Abd El Samie ,1994). Nafea (2004) showed that the total lipid of different royal jelly types were 10.2 and 10.4 g/100g. Nitrogen content values of royal jelly were 1.6, 1.5 and 1.5g/100g. The average content of protein of royal jelly is 9.9 % (17 – 45 % of dry weight). Of the nitrogenous substances, proteins consist of 73.9 % nitrogen (Otani *et al.* ,1985 ; Takenaka, 1987 and Takenaka, 1984). Data in table (4) shows that the crude protein of royal jelly production from German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 10.0,9.3 and 9.3 g/100g royal jelly ,respectively. Nafea (2004) found that crude protein of different types of royal jelly ranged from 11.1-13.4 g/100g.

Table 3: Chemical composition of different pollen types (g/100g)

Pollen types	lipid	nitrogen	protein	carbohydrate
Germany	12.0	5.0	31.25	48.0
Chinese	10.3	5.0	31.25	46.7
Egyptian	9.2	5.7	35.6	47.2

Table 4: Chemical composition of royal jelly

Pollen types	Lipid g/100g	Nitrogen g/100g	Protein g/100g	Carbohydrate g/100g	pH	Moisture %
Germany	8.3	1.6	10.0	10.1	3.81	69.4
Chinese	8.59	1.5	9.3	9.3	3.90	66.5
Egyptian	8.54	1.5	9.3	11.5	3.92	68.68.5

Data in table (4) shows that the carbohydrates of royal jelly production from German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 10.1, 9.3 and 11.5 g/100g royal jelly ,respectively. The sugars consist 18 – 52 % of dry weight of royal jelly, mostly of fructose and glucose in relatively constant proportions similar to those in honey. In many cases fructose and glucose together account for 90% of the total sugars. (Takenaka

,1984 , Palma ,1992 and Echigo *et al.*,1986) . Nafea (2004) found that carbohydrates of different types of royal jelly ranged from 10.10-11.3 g/100g.

As shown in table (4) the pH of royal jelly production from German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 3.81, 3.90 and 3.92 ,respectively. Nafea (2004) found that pH of different types of royal jelly ranged from 3.4-4.7. Data in table (4) shows that the moisture values of royal jelly production from German ,Chinese and Egyptian pollen fed honeybee colonies were 69.4, 66.5 and 68.5 g/100g royal jelly respectively. Water makes up about two thirds of fresh royal jelly (60.0- 70.0 %) (Palma ,1992 , Echigo *et al.*, 1986, Abd El Samie , 1994).

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دراسات مقارنة لأنواع حبوب اللقاح المختلفة التي يجمعها نحل العسل وتأثيرها على إنتاج الغذاء الملكي

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دراسة مقارنة على بعض انواع حبوب اللقاح (الالمانى، الصينى والمصرى) وتأثيرها على إنتاج الغذاء الملكي تم اختيار حبوب لقاح كل من الالمانى والصينى والمصرى على عدد ٢١ طائفة نحل هجين اول كرينيولى فى منطقة شبرامنت بمحافظة الجيزة وقد تم استخدام اوزان من حبوب اللقاح بواقع ٥٠ و ١٠٠ و ٢٠٠ جرام لكل طائفة فى مكررات لكل الانواع الموضحة سابقا أسبوعيا. وقد وجد أن التغذية بـ ٢٠٠ جرام حبوب لقاح المانى اعطت اعلى كمية من الغذاء الملكي فى الطائفة ولا توجد اى فروق معنوية بين التى غذيت ٢٠٠ جرام و ١٠٠ جرام وايضا وجد ان التغذية بحبوب لقاح صينى اعطت نفس النتائج. اما بالنسبة للتحليل الكيمياءى فقد وجد ان الدهون الكلية فى حبوب اللقاح الالمانى والصينى والمصرى ٩,٢، ١٠,٣ و ١٢%. تحليل البروتين فى حبوب اللقاح الالمانى والصينى والمصرى ٣٥,٦، ٣١,٢٥ و ٢٥,٣١ جم/١٠٠ جم حبوب لقاح. النيتروجين فى حبوب اللقاح الالمانى والصينى والمصرى ٥,٢، ٥,٠ و ٥,٠ جم/١٠٠ جم حبوب لقاح والكربوهيدرات فى حبوب اللقاح الالمانى والصينى والمصرى ٤٨,٥، ٤٦,٧ و ٤٧,٢ جم/١٠٠ جم حبوب لقاح اما بالنسبة للتحليل الكيمياءى للغذاء الملكي الناتج من تغذية الطوائف على حبوب اللقاح المختلفة فكانت: الدهون الكلية ٨,٥٤، ٨,٥٩ و ٨,٣ جم/١٠٠ جم غذاء ملكى على التوالى والنيتروجين ١,٥، ١,٦ و ١,٦ جم/١٠٠ جم غذاء ملكى.

البروتين ٩,٣، ١٠,٠ و ٩,٣ جم / ١٠٠ جم غذاء ملكى والسكريات الكلية فكانت ١١,٥، ٩,٣ و ١٠,١ جم / ١٠٠ جم غذاء اما درجة pH فكانت ٣,٨١، ٣,٩ و ٣,٩٢ اما الرطوبة فكانت ٦٩,٤، ٦٦,٥ و ٦٨,٥ % غذاء ملكى.