

ABSTRACT

In relation to morphometric variabilities in the Sri Lankan Mee Bee (*Apis cerana indica*: Apidae; Hymenoptera), it could be separated into three eco-types. The eco-type separation seem to have influenced by the floral conditions of its habitat, which in turn determine the nectar supply or the honeyflow, rather than the influence of the physical environmental factors. These distinguishable eco-types can be named as Poor Honeyflow Type, Intermittent Honeyflow Type and Strong Annual Honeyflow Type depending on the honeyflow conditions of the floral composition.

Honey yield does not seem to correlate with significantly variable morphometric characters among different eco-types. But honey yield seem to correlate well with the Corbicular (Pollen Basket) Breadth, which is not a significantly variable character among the Sri Lankan population of Mee Bees. Therefore selection has to base on individual colonies rather than from a particular eco-type. Selection for larger Pollen Basket Breadth may lead to a strain selection for higher productivity. However the heritability of this character was not ascertained in this study.