

Factors affecting royal jelly production

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Introduction

Royal jelly is secreted from the honeybee hypopharyngeal gland and mandibular gland. The queen honey bee is fed the royal jelly from newly hatched larva to pupation (Haydak 1970, Howe *et al* 1985). During the production of royal jelly, the amount and quality of available pollen closely regulates royal jelly production. During this time ,the nectar source is also very important .The feeding of sugar and pollen to honeybees is necessary to make up for insufficiencies of pollen and honey. In Taiwan, beekeeping is divided between the collection of honey and collection of royal jelly. Taiwan is located in a tropical and subtropical area. There are abundant honey plants blooming all year around. With good design, development and utilization, it is an ideal beekeeping environment .At present, beekeepers can collect royal jelly except during the honey flow of longan and litchi. The annual yield of royal jelly is about 261 tons . Some is sold for domestic use and the rest is sold to foreign countries ,especially Japen, resulting in a high income for the farmers. This experiment is aimed to further royal jelly production with emphases on colony size ,color of queen cell cup ,collecting periods ,nutrition ,collecting methods and related factors.