

Scientists Uncover Benefits of Traditional Bee Farming

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. stingless /stɪŋ les/ (of insects) having no sting or stinger; used to describe insects that can't put holes when they brush against your skin.
Example: Two stingless bees drowned in a sugary pool.
2. bronchitis /brɒŋ'kaɪ.təs/ an illness resulting in coughing and difficulty in breathing
Example: She was diagnosed with bronchitis.
3. farming /'fɑ:r.mɪŋ/ the business or activity of raising animals, growing crops, etc. on a farm
Example: Cow farming is the city's main source of income.
4. humidity /hju:'mɪd.ə.ti/ the state of being humid or the amount of water vapor in the air
Example: I don't like the humidity of this climate.
5. producer /prə'du:sə/ a person, company, or country that makes, grows, or supplies goods for sale.
Example: India is one of the world's main producers of milk.



While the rest of modern civilization gets honey mostly from European honeybees, indigenous tribes in Peru get theirs from **stingless** bees, which seems way smarter. But it's more than just smart, it's absolutely important for people like the Kukama-Kukamiria, who now use it as food, a source of income, and medicine for everything from skin cuts to **bronchitis**.

Now, scientists working with these tribes are beginning to uncover the benefits this traditional bee **farming** can have for people like the Kukama-Kukamiria, and the rest of the world.

Scientists such as Cesar Delgado Vasquez are working with indigenous groups as both teachers and learners; teaching them how to keep and raise stingless bees to produce their own honey without damaging wild nests, and learning about the great value of this liquid medicine.

Delgado conducted a field study with three separate communities and four separate species of stingless bee to evaluate the characteristics of the honey they produced. They found that the **humidity** and sugar content didn't change much between honeys.

“For conservation, it is necessary to prevent people from cutting down the trees to get honey. It is also necessary to provide information on honey quality limits and improve the incomes of small **producers**”, said Cezar Delgado. (Good News Network)

DISCUSSION

1. What do you think of bees? Do you like them? Why or why not?
2. Do you know anyone who was stung by a bee?
3. Why are bees important?
4. Do you like to eat honey? Why or why not?
5. What's the difference between natural honey and processed honey? Is there a difference in taste?
6. What would you do if there was a bee flying in your bedroom?