

Honeybee (Life History)

Classification

Kingdom : Animalia

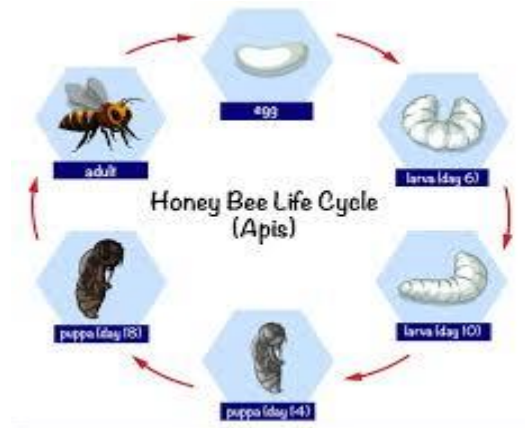
Phylum : Arthropoda

Class : Insecta

Order : Hymenoptera

Family : Apidae

Genus : Apis



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics and life cycle :

- Honey bees have a complex life cycle with four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

Stages of Honey Bee Development:

- **1. Egg:** The queen bee lays a single egg in each honeycomb cell. The egg is small, about the size of a grain of rice. After three days, the egg hatches.
- **2. Larva:** The larva is a worm-like stage, fed by worker bees. It grows and develops for about five days. The larva is fed royal jelly, a special secretion produced by worker bees.
- **3. Pupa:** The larva transforms into a pupa within a capped cell. The pupa undergoes significant physical changes, developing into an adult bee. The pupa stage lasts for varying lengths depending on the caste: queens for 8 days, workers for 12 days, and drones for 14.5 days.
- **4. Adult:** The fully formed bee emerges from the cell. Honey bees live in colonies with a queen, drones, and worker bees. Each caste has a different role in the colony.

Caste Differences:

- **Queen:** The queen is the only fertile female in the colony. She is responsible for laying eggs. Queens develop faster than other castes.

- **Worker:** Workers are sterile females that perform all the tasks in the colony, such as foraging, building comb, and caring for the young.
- **Drone:** Drones are male bees whose sole purpose is to mate with virgin queens.

Lifespan:

- The lifespan of worker bees varies considerably depending on the season.
- During active seasons (spring and summer), worker bees may only live for a few weeks due to their intense workload.
- Bees born in the autumn may live for several months, overwintering in the hive.
- On average, about 1% of a colony's worker bees die naturally each day.

Diagram :

