Stephanie's Big Cat Conservation Quest

STINGLESS BEE

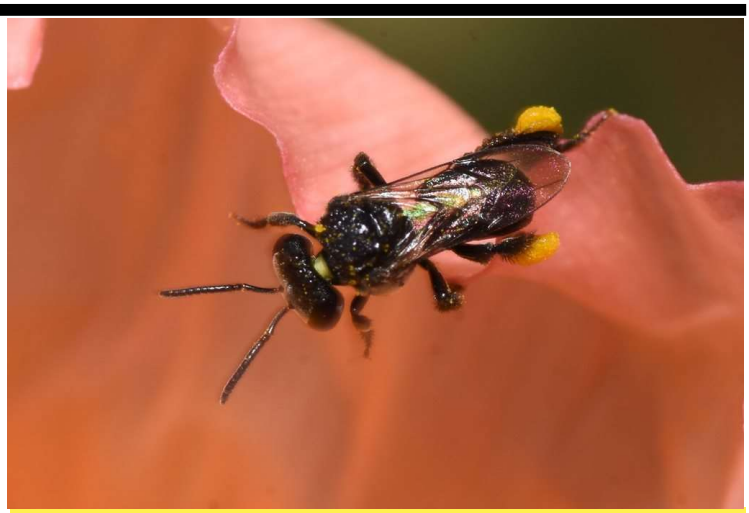
HABITAT
The Stingless Bee lives in coastal areas from Queensland to southern New South Wales.[1] They also live in forests, woodlands, and heath,[2] and they form colonies in tree hollows.[3] Each hive has a population between 6,000-10,000 bees that consists of only one queen bee, thousands of female workers, and hundreds of male workers.[4]

DIET
They feed on pollen and nectar.[5] Worker bees scout for food, and they typically travel short distances of up to half a kilometre daily in their hunt for food.[6]

REPRODUCTION
The queen bee is responsible for reproduction and typically a few hundred males die after mating with the queen. The queen bee lays approximately 400 eggs per day.[7]

THREATS
The main threats include pesticides, climate change, and loss of habitat. They are often mistaken for pest species, which leads to their hives being destroyed.[8]

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT
Efforts such as promoting the use of native plants in gardens and urban areas, and setting up artificial Original Australian Trigona Hive (OATH) nesting sites are being made by ABeeC Hives in order to help them thrive.[9]



DESCRIPTION
They are small, dark bees[10] that are 4 to 5mm long.[11] They do not have stingers.[12]

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Tetragonula carbonaria[13]

CONSERVATION STATUS
Least Concern[14]

CLASS
Insects[15]

LIFESPAN
Up to 100 days[16]

POPULATION SIZE
Unknown[17]

FUN FACT
They dance to communicate, by walking vigorously, shaking their abdomen and buzzing.[18]

[1] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, *Australian Museum* (10 Nov. 2021), Distribution, https://australian.museum/learn/animals/birds/azure-kingfisher/, accessed 1 Aug. 2024.
[2] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, Habitat.
[3] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, Identification.
[4] Hunter's Hill Council, ‘Native Bees’, *Hunter's Hill Council* (2024), Native Stingless Bees Tetragonula carbonaria, https://www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Bushland-and-Biodiversity/Wildlife/Native-Bees, accessed 1 Aug. 2024.
[5] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, Feeding and diet.
[6] Hunter's Hill Council, ‘Native Bees’, Native Stingless Bees Tetragonula carbonaria.
[7] Hunter's Hill Council, ‘Native Bees’, Native Stingless Bees Tetragonula carbonaria.
[8] ABeeC Hives Australian Native Bee Hives, ‘Tetragonula Carbonaria’, *ABeeC Hives* (17 July 2023), Why Have Stingless Bees?, https://abeec.com.au/tetragonula-carbonaria/, accessed 1 Aug. 2024.
[9] ABeeC Hives Australian Native Bee Hives, ‘Tetragonula Carbonaria’, Why Have Stingless Bees?.
[10] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, Identification.
[11] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, Size Range.
[12] ABeeC Hives Australian Native Bee Hives, ‘Tetragonula Carbonaria’, About Tetragonula Carbonaria.
[13] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, Scientific name.
[14] Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, ‘Native Stingless Bees’, *Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary* (15 July 2022), CONSERVATION STATUS, https://currumbinsanctuary.com.au/what-to-see-and-do/animals/Native-Stingless-Bees, accessed 8 Aug. 2024.
[15] Australian Museum, ‘Stingless Bee’, Class.
[16] Fraser Coast Regional Council, ‘Native Stingless Bees’, *Fraser Coast Regional Council* (20 Mar. 2023), https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/native-stingless-bees, accessed 8 Aug. 2024.
[17] José Javier G. Quezada-Euán, William J. May-Itzá, Pilar de la Rúa, David W. Roubik, ‘From neglect to stardom: how the rising popularity of stingless bees threatens diversity and meliponiculture in Mexico’, *HAL open science* (2022), 2.3. Anthropogenic movement of colonies, https://hal.science/hal-04349555/document, accessed 15 Aug. 2024.
[18] D. Raghav, ‘Fun Stingless Bee Facts For Kids’, *Kidadl* (26 Oct. 2022), How do they communicate?, https://kidadl.com/facts/animals-nature/stingless-bee-facts, accessed 12 Sep. 2024.