

PLANTS OF INTEREST FOR BEEKEEPING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF UBIATÃ AND NOVA AURORA, PARANA STATE, BRAZIL

Sekine, E.S.¹; Toledo, V.A.A.²; Chmura, S.¹; Caxambu, M.G.¹; Takashiba, E.H., Sereia, M.J.¹; Alves, E.M.²; Marchini, L.C.³; Moreti, A.C. de C.C.⁴.

¹Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná, UTFPR - BR 369 km 0,5 Campo Mourão-PR, Brasil – fone/fax (44) 35234156 – essekine@gmail.com

²Universidade Estadual de Maringá, UEM – Av. Colombo, 5.790, Maringá- PR, Brasil – fone (44) 30118939 – fax (44) 32618977 – abelha.vagner@gmail.com

³Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz, Esalq/USP – Avenida Pádua Dias, 11 Piracicaba-SP, Brasil

⁴Instituto de Zootecnia – Rua Heitor Penteado, 56, Nova Odessa-SP, Brasil

Honey properties can vary due to the plant diversity and soil characteristics, or due to seasonal factors. Knowledge of regional flora with potential for beekeeping enables better use of resources and the use of these plants in reconstructing the natural vegetation in rural areas. The aim of this study was to survey plants in the vicinity of apiaries in rural properties in two municipalities, Nova Aurora and Ubiatã, located in western and west-central regions of Parana state, aiming to investigate about floral resources used by *Apis mellifera* for honey production, as well as studying the pollen spectrum of honey produced in these properties over the year. Plant and honey samples were collected in three apiaries in the region. Plants were collected once every two weeks in forest fragments, pastures and crops and the potential of bee plants was investigated by pollen analysis in honey samples collected monthly. We recorded 208 plants species, distributed in 66 families. Asteraceae, Myrtaceae and Solanaceae presented the highest number of species. In honey samples were found 80 pollen types. Mostly the honey samples were heterofloral. Some crops were fairly representative, as the pollen from *Glycine max* (soybean), between December and April and *Eucalyptus* spp. from February to July. Exotic species such as *Ricinus communis* and *Melia azedarach* were also frequent. However, over 50% of the pollen types are of native species, such as *Schinus terebinthifolius*, *Baccharis* spp. *Alchornea triplinervia*, *Parapiptadenia rigida*, *Hexachlamys edulis*, *Zanthoxylum* sp. *Serjania* spp., which shows the importance of native vegetation for the survival of hives.

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