

**4th European Conference of Apidology
(EURBEE 2010)
September 07-09, 2010
Middle East Technical University
Cultural & Convention Center**

ANKARA, TURKEY

7.P3. Potential Apoidea pollinators of the bean *Vicia faba* L. (Fabaceae) in Algiers region

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Bees have a key role in the pollination of plants and crops, including agriculture. Every purpose of the study, these were conducted throughout the year 2009 to define and identify the most important species of bees deployed on the ground some flowering crops and estimate the numerical density and study its behavior in flower pollination at the test station of the National Institute for Agriculture at El Harrach, Algiers. Results showed the presence of three different species of wild bees of the level of membrane wings (Hymenoptera) are *Andrena*, *Eucera* and *Xylocopa*. *Eucera* found the sex of the broad beans for the duration of its flowers and the months of April, May. The genus *Andrena* and *Xylocopa* found on herbal plants after the flowers period of beans. Every means that the two species have not a special type of vegetation compared to the specie *Eucera*. And the results also indicate that there was a difference in the behavior of bees and the activity of the three genus that have a significant role in crop pollination beans.

7.P4. Pollination requirements of apricot: ten years of research in Piedmont (Italy)

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Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* L.) is usually autocompatible, while lately some autoincompatible cultivars have spread because of their quality excellence. The introduction of new cultivars needs therefore the evaluation, besides of agronomic and productive requirements, of also the necessity of insect pollination so to adopt adequate planting and control strategies compatible with the accomplishment of the pollination service

Observation and test were carried out on 22 newly established cultivars in three localities of the Cuneo district (north-western Italy): CReSO Experimental Stations of Cuneo (2000-2004) and Manta (from 2008 onwards) and the fruit-growing farm Quaranta of Costigliole di Saluzzo in 2005. In any case there was plenty of plants supplying compatible pollen and beehives were placed close to the experimental orchards in order to grant an adequate insect pollination. During the blooming period observations were made on the presence of wild pollinators, that were however rather scanty.

For each cultivar and each year 3-5 trees were selected. On each tree 2 fruit-bearing branches of similar size were chosen; one of them was isolated with a net mesh sufficient to prevent the passage of pollinating insects, without hampering sensibly wind action, while the other one was left free. For each branch flowers, set fruits and ripe fruits were counted; the latter were also weighed.

The cultivars that produced no or very few fruits on the caged branches are autoincompatible and require therefore the presence of pollinating cultivars, combined with the beneficial action of the honey bee.