

LIFE CYCLE OF BEES



There are three types of honey bees in a hive: queens (egg producers), workers (non reproducing females) and drones (males whose main duty is to mate with the queen).

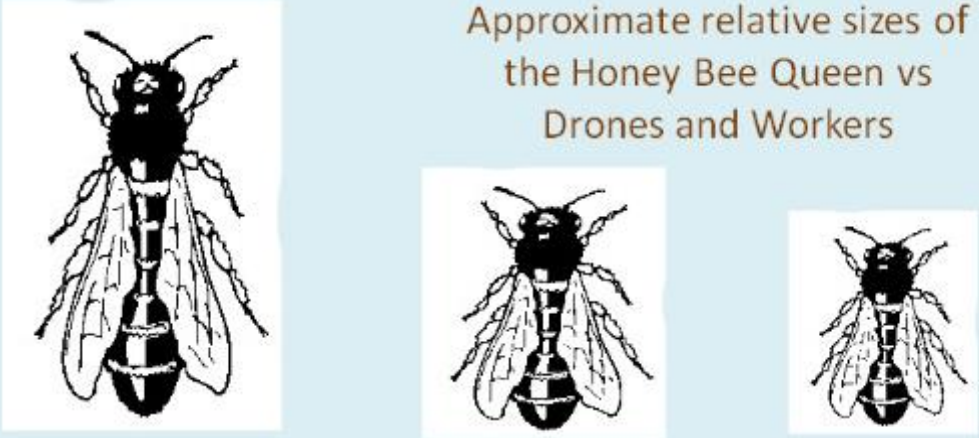


Honey bee larvae hatch from eggs in three to four days. They are then fed by worker bees and develop through several stages in the cells. Cells are capped by worker bees when the larvae pupates. Queens and drones are larger than workers so they require larger cells. After the closing of the cells the pupae are no longer fed. The pupa transforms to an adult bee and comes out of the cell by itself. Development from egg to adult bee varies among queens, worker's and drones. Queens emerge from their cells in 15 to 20 days, workers in 21 days and drones in 24 days. The food they are fed by workers consists of pollen, honey and worker's secretions but the queens are fed with royal jelly. The average lifespan of a queen is 3 to 4 years drones usually die upon mating or are expelled from the hive before winter and workers may live from 2 to 3 months.

THOMAS DIMOU



Approximate relative sizes of the Honey Bee Queen vs Drones and Workers



Queen is up to 2cm in length

Drones

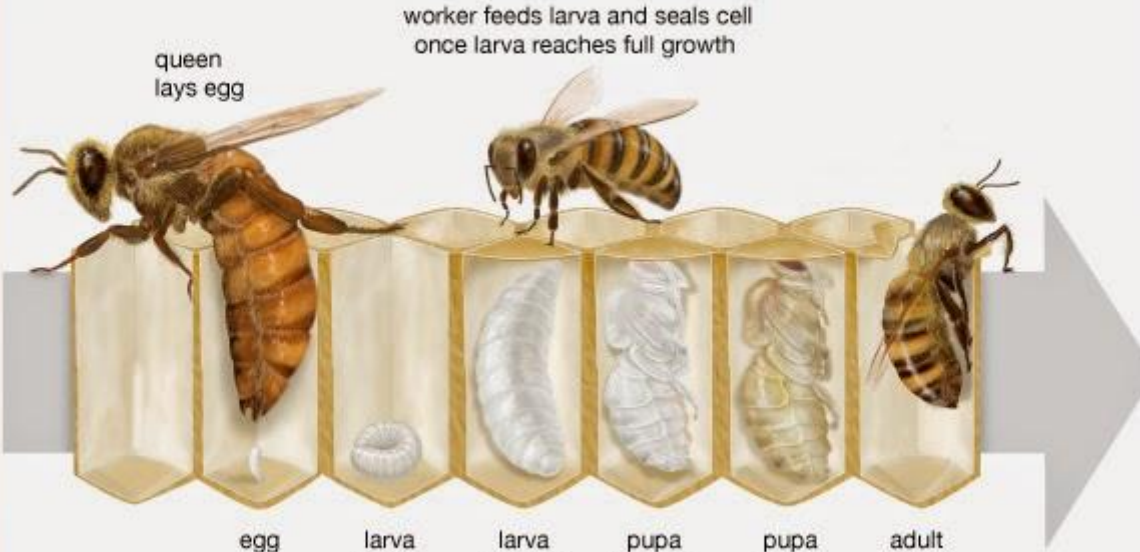
Workers



Life cycle of honeybees

queen lays egg

worker feeds larva and seals cell once larva reaches full growth



egg larva day 6 larva day 10 pupa day 15 pupa day 18 adult day 21



THE END

THOMAS DIMOU
THOMAS DIMOU