

Aggression Patterns in Pollinators

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Abstract

Agriculture is a key practice that involves growing crops and maintaining livestock that provides humans with food, wool, and other products. Pollination helps build the foundation to produce these crops with the help of pollinators. Pollinators often compete with one another for a plant species and a question arises: can one pollinator dominate a weaker pollinator and show aggressive behavior? This paper analyzes the patterns of aggression and the relationship amongst pollinators at Grandfather Mountain and then compares the results to a study done by Roubik (1978), which discusses the competitive interactions between Neotropical Pollinators and Africanized Honey Bees. The data helped conclude that pollinators at first have a mutual relationship with both pollinators from the same and different species, but later on one outcompetes the other, in this case the Africanized Honey Bee. Thus the more advantaged pollinator has greater reproductive success and develops dominance.