

## **FAST FACTS**

- Certain species of bees *die* after stinging. That is because their stingers are attached to their abdomen, and have little barbs or hooks on them. When the bee tries to fly away after stinging something, part of the abdomen is ripped away and it dies.
- Bees make honey to feed their young and so they have something to eat during the winter.
- Beekeepers use smoke to calm bees when they are collecting honey or relocating a hive.
- Africanized Honey Bees (a.k.a. "killer bee") have been known to chase people for over a quarter of a mile once they get excited and aggressive.

## **General Information**

The Africanized honeybee—also known as the "killer bee"—lives in South America and the Western and Southern United States.

Even though they are called "Killer" bees, their venom is no more dangerous than regular honeybees. Their attacks are more harmful because they tend to attack in greater numbers, increasing your chance of having a severe **allergic reaction** to the venom released when they sting you.

"Killer bees" can only sting once, because their stingers are **barbed** and tear off when they try to get away.

<b>Size:</b> 1/2"	<b>Common Name:</b> Africanized Honey Bees
<b>Shape:</b> Oval	<b>Kingdom:</b> Animalia
<b>Color:</b> Golden-yellow with darker bands of brown.	<b>Phylum:</b> Arthropoda
<b>Legs:</b> 6	<b>Class:</b> Insecta
<b>Wings:</b> Yes	<b>Order:</b> Hymenoptera
<b>Antenna:</b> Yes	<b>Family:</b> Apidae
	<b>Genus Species:</b> Apis

## **Diet**

Worker bees gather both pollen and nectar from flowers to feed to the **larvae** and other members of the colony.

## **Habitat**

Africanized bees have small colonies, so they can build nests in unique places. They have been known to live in tires, crates, boxes, and empty cars.

## **Impact**

Their venom is no more dangerous than regular honeybees—they just tend to attack in greater numbers, dramatically increasing the odds of having an allergic reaction to the venom. If you are chased by Africanized honeybees run in a zigzag pattern and seek shelter in a house or car. Don't jump in the water...they'll just wait around until you come up for air.

## **Prevention**



## KILLER BEE INFO SHEET

\* Because of the aggressive nature of these pests, a pest management professional or beekeeper should be called in to help.

To learn more about this and other bees, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/bees.html>