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Beehavioral trend

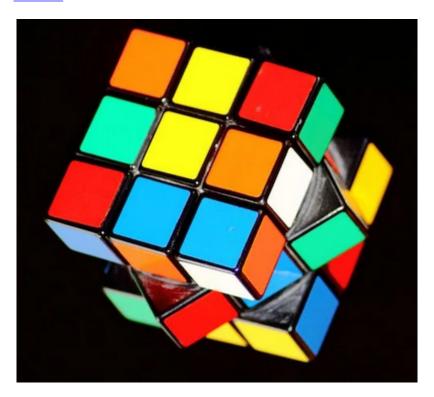


According to Wikipedia, most <u>bumblebees</u> are social insects, which form exclusive colonies with a single queen. Bumblebee colonies are smaller than honey bees, which grow to as few as 50 individual Bumblebees within a nest.

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<u>Cuckoo bumblebees</u> are <u>brood parasitic</u> and do not make nests or form colonies; their queens aggressively invade the nests of other bumblebee species, kill the resident queens and then lay their own eggs, which are cared for by the resident workers. Cuckoo bumblebees were previously classified as a separate genus; though are now, usually, treated as members of <u>Bombus</u>.



It would appear that Bumblebees actually possess the capacity to understand and solve puzzles, by observing their peers complete them, at least according to researchers at Queen Mary University in London. The research team placed a sugar reward in a puzzle box that could be opened by pressing tabs.

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The team separately trained two groups of demonstrator Bees to open the red tabs and blue tabs. Two groups of observer Bees watched demonstrator Bees press tabs opening box lids and there were two ways to open these box lids.



The box lids opened by pressing the red tab or blue tab, that rotated the box lid open clockwise and counter-clockwise. Following the demonstrations, the observer Bees were allowed to open the box in their own way. As it turns out, 98 percent of the observer Bees opted for the observed approach even after discovering that either approach was just as effective. The demonstrator Bees trained the observer Bees within segregated groups each mutually exclusive.

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Curiously, when both the red and blue demonstrators bees were integrated into the same group, the observer bees actually learned both of approaches before choosing their preferred technique, which influenced their Bee colony.



Bees were not known to demonstrate culture like behavior in the wild. Their experiment seems to suggest the spread and maintenance of a behavioral trend in groups of Bumblebees not much unlike that of primates and birds.

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