

# Abundance of Major Insect Pollinators of Seed Crop of Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *italica* Plenck) Variety-DPH

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**Abstract**—Broccoli is known as the “Crown of Jewel Nutrition” because it is rich in vitamins and minerals. Devkota (2001) studied the comparative foraging and pollination behaviour of *Apis cerana* and *Apis mellifera* and their impact on broccoli seed production and reported that broccoli blooms were highly preferred by *Apis cerana* and *Apis mellifera* and many other insects pollinators including wild bees, bumble bees, flies and butterflies.

Abundance of major insect visitors/pollinators on broccoli flowers was recorded during the blooming period of the crop. For recording these observations, numbers of pollinators visiting per square meter area of crop/5 minutes were noted from five randomly selected areas. These observations were recorded from 0700 a.m. to 1900 p.m. at an interval of 2:00 hours. Observations were recorded for 7 days after the initiation of 10 per cent flowering in the crop, at peak flowering and before the cessation of flowering in the crop.

For abundance at the initiation stage of flowering, the cumulative mean abundance of important species revealed that *A. mellifera* (5.70) was the most abundant visitor followed by *A. florea* (2.30), *A. cerana* (2.10), *A. dorsata* (1.90) and Syrphid fly (1.70) was least frequent visitor. At the peak stage of flowering, the cumulative mean abundance of important species revealed that *A. mellifera* (8.50) was the most abundant visitor followed by *A. florea* (8.00), Syrphid fly (3.90), *A. dorsata* (2.92) and *A. cerana* (2.90) was least frequent visitor and at the cessation of flowering revealed that *A. mellifera* (6.80) was the most abundant visitor followed by *A. florea* (6.10), Syrphid fly (4.40), *A. dorsata* (2.40) and *A. cerana* (2.30) was least frequent visitors. Data on abundance (irrespective of flowering stage of crop) revealed that *A. mellifera* (7.00) was the most abundant visitor followed by *A. florea* (5.50), syrphid fly (3.30), *A. dorsata* (2.41) and *A. cerana* was least frequent (2.40) visitor.