

# An Bheach Dúchasach



*Apis Mellifera Mellifera*

An scéal is fearr faoi na beacha ná go bhfuil an bheach dúchasach, *Apis Mellifera Mellifera*, ag leathnú amach ar fud Chonamara ar fad agus iad tagtha chomh fada le Muighinis i gCarna, Leitir Móir, An Trá Bháin agus Baile Chonaola agus tá scéalta maithe ag teacht ar ais ó na beachairí a bhfuil siad acu.

Taispeánann sé seo dúinn gur fiú go mór an phóir seo a choinneal ag imeacht agus is fiú go mór an t-iarracht a dhéanamh iad a scaipe ar fud na tíre ar fad.

Tá an-mholadh á fháil ag an mhil freisin agus tuairiscí dearfacha ag teacht ar ais chugainn. Tá an-tóir ar an mhil fraoigh, an ghnáth mhil agus ar an mhil ón eidhneán agus daoine ag rá go bhfuil sé ag déanamh anmhaitheas go deo dhóib ó thaobh sláinte de agus é ag cuidiú le daoine a bhfuil fadhbanna scamhóga, boilg, craicinn agus go leor rudaí eile acu.

Feithidí sóisialta atá sna Beacha Meala. Cónaíonn agus saothraíonn siad le chéile i ngrúpaí móra a dtugtar coilíneachtaí mar ainm orthu.

## Quiz – Tráth na gCeist

1. What are the three main parts of the bee's anatomy?
2. Has the queen bee got a sting?
3. What name do we give to the male bee?
4. How long does a worker bee live?
5. What do the flying bees bring back to the hive?
6. How do bees help in the production of our food?
7. How much honey will 12 bees produce in their lifetime?
8. How many eggs a day does the queen bee lay in summer?
9. What is the purpose of the honey produced by the bees?
10. What might be the population of a beehive in the height of summer?

### Freagraí:

1. Head, Thorax, Abdomen. 2. Yes. 3. Drone. 4. 6 weeks in summer and 6 months in winter. 5. Nectar, Propolis, Water, Pollen. 6. They help to pollinate (fertilise) the plants they visit. 7. One teaspoon. 8. 1500. 9. It is their food supply especially for their young. 10. Up to 50,000.

Leaflet Sponsored by:



Design: Felim Burke.



## Connemara Beekeepers' Association

### Conserving the Native Irish Honeybee

Our mission is to promote and further the craft of beekeeping across the Connemara region through the conservation of the native Irish dark bee.



Inspecting the hive at a group demonstration



## Bees and Pollinators



## What you can do to Help



## More Information

### We have 98 different species (types) of bees in Ireland:

- 1 Honeybee,
- 20 different Bumblebees,
- 77 different Solitary Bees.

The most important thing to know is that you shouldn't be scared of bees. To them we're just big boring giants that walk around their world. Unless you threaten them, bees will not attack humans. They won't chase after you if you leave them alone. If a bee comes close to you, attracted by your bright colourful t-shirt, or the nice smell from your shampoo, just sit still and it will fly off when it realises you're not a flower!

The Honeybee and Bumblebee are probably the ones you know the best. Honeybees make honey from nectar and are happy to live in hives that have been built by people. They store the honey and use it as food for themselves when it's too wet or cold to go outside. We love honey too and lucky for us Honeybees generally make much more honey than they can eat themselves – leaving the rest for us!



The Bumblebee is probably the most famous of bees (and cutest) with its fat, furry, stripy body. They are very important pollinators of crops like strawberries and tomatoes. So, the next time you dig into a bowl of strawberries and ice cream, stop for a moment and think of the big bumbler that made it possible!

### What can you do to help in your garden at home?

By choosing pollen-rich flowers and plants for your garden, you will help provide much-needed food for our Bumblebees and other pollinating insects. It doesn't matter if you have a large garden or a small garden. Even if you only have a window box you could make sure to plant it with flowers that bees like. There are lots of pollinator-friendly plants to choose from:

Grape Hyacinth, Wallflower, Lungwort, Berberis, Mahonia, Broom, Rosemary, Borage, Comfrey, Allium, Foxglove, Catmint, Bellflower, Scabious, Globe Thistle, Stonecrop, Verbena, Lavender, Rudbeckia, Heathers, Aster, Salvia, Willow, Viburnum, Crocus, Helleborus.

While out on your favourite walk, pick a 1-2km section once a month between March and October, and write down how many bumblebees you see. If the numbers of bumblebees goes down we know they are in trouble. We hope that if lots of you make your schools and gardens bee friendly then we'll see their numbers going up instead!



Finally, please DON'T use chemicals (pesticides) to kill weeds or pests around home or schools. These can be harmful to bees and make them sick.

### If you're interested in finding out more about Beekeeping:

Please visit our website:

[www.connemarabeekeepers.ie](http://www.connemarabeekeepers.ie)

or Facebook: [/Connemara-Beekeepers](https://www.facebook.com/Connemara-Beekeepers)

or contact Tony Murphy, Education Officer,

Cumann Beachairí Chonamara,

087-2211235

### Further Information:

[www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan)

<http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/>

<http://nihbs.org/>