

Source: The Times {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Thursday 17, March 2016
Page: 22
Area: 42 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 404155 Daily
Ad data: page rate £16,645.00, scc rate £75.00
Phone: 020 7782 5000
Keyword: Queen Mary University of London

Bees insist young buzz off and find their own way

Scientists have found that when older bumble bees spot a newcomer following them to flowers, even one from the same hive, they respond by attacking them.

Writing in Plos One, academics from Queen Mary University of London, conducted an experiment into the way in which bees navigate between flowers so efficiently.

They introduced two into a controlled environment and found that the less experienced bee traced the path of the older one. The latter would then wrestle the newcomer, pushing it off the flower. Mathieu Lihoreau, who led the study, said that the “ritualised aggressive interactions” may be a way of sorting out hierarchy or partitioning resources.

