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Honeybees face towering threat from mobiles

VR Jayaraj | Kochi

Radiation from transmitters wipes out bee colonies which will affect food production: Study

Studies in Kerala have brought out evidence to support the theory of colony collapse disorder (CCD) among honeybees due to bioactive microwave radiation from mobile phones and their relay towers, which leads to extensive disappearance of entire worker bee colonies. This could result in disruption in food production because most of the crops depend on bees for pollination.

Although the theory of mobile towers leading to CCD is yet to be proved anywhere in the world, experts say this is highly possible and the phenomenon could cause unimaginable food troubles to most Indian States, especially Kerala which is already food-scarce. The State has the highest density of mobile towers.

The phenomenon of (suspected) mobile tower-induced CCD and resultant crop loss were first noticed in the US several years ago, but this had spread to most European countries by 2007. Now, experiments by Sainuddeen Pattazhy, a researcher and dean in the department of zoology at SN College, Punalur, Kerala, have found that worker bees fail to return to their hives when their navigation skills are interfered by the mobile microwaves.

Sainuddeen had conducted his experiments by placing mobile phones near beehives (as some scientists in the West had done earlier). He found that these hives collapsed totally in five to 10 days with the worker bees failing to return to their homes, leaving the hives with the queens, eggs and immature bees. The vanished bees were never found, but the assumption was that they died singly far from home. The parasites, wildlife and other bees that normally raid the honey and pollen left behind when a colony dies, refuse to go anywhere near the abandoned hives.

"The navigation skill of the worker bees is dependent on the earth's magnetic properties. The electro-magnetic waves emitted by the mobile phones and relay towers interfere with the earth's magnetism, resulting in the loss of the navigation capacity of the bee. Then it fails to come back. Also, the radiation causes damage to the nervous system of the bee and it becomes unable to fly," said Sainuddeen.

The researcher had earlier led a study on the impact of mobile phones and towers on ecology, in which other environmentalists had participated. The study revealed that bioactive radiations from mobile towers threatened the very existence of home sparrow, which lived in colonies close to human habitats, even in crowded cities.

Pattazhy, however, is not the first scientist to notice the phenomenon of CCD occurring in bees due to mobile phone-tower proximity. A limited study at Landau University in 2007, headed by Dr Jochen Kuhn, had found that bees refused to return to their hives when mobile phones were placed nearby. As back as in late 1990s, a researcher, George Carlo, had headed a massive study sponsored by the US Government and the mobile phone industry in America, had said, "I am convinced that the possibility is real."

Apiarists in Idukki, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Wayanad districts confirm that they have been noticing the massive play of CCD for the past four or five years, but they have never thought of the relation between mobile tower-induced radiations and their bees.

A beekeeper in Thodupuzha, Idukki said he had lost 13 of his 17 hives in the past three years. Three years ago, three mobile towers were erected on the hillock near his farm.

"But I have never thought of the relation. I, like other farmers, was thinking that climatic changes and pesticides used in the rubber plantations were the reason," he said.

Scientists warn that Kerala, which already has a large number of mobiles and towers, could face not just CCD-created hive losses but even a crop disaster if the mobile craze continues to grow.

"Honeybees can be wiped out in Kerala and many other Indian States and cities if there is no system to control the unscientific increase in the use of mobile phones. It can in turn lead to a disaster in the food front as bees are responsible for pollination in most of the food crops," said a biotechnologist at a Coimbatore college.

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■ **Colony collapse disorder**

By Gerald Goldberg, MD on 10/12/2009 6:07:09 PM

I have recently authored a paper entitled "To Bee or Not to Bee" which can be obtained on the internet. Essentially bees along with many other organisms have evolved mechanisms utilizing the earths electromagnetic signature as a means to navigate and know where they are in relationship to the earth itself. emf pulses will interfere with this ability and essentially disorient the bees. Additionally the depletion of energy leads to immune suppression and the opportunity for opportunistic infection.

■ **cell phone towers and bees**

By Sam on 10/8/2009 4:57:23 PM

Hi, There is research from Germany showing that the microwave radiation emitted from cell phone towers interferes with bees navigation abilities, also their communication. It also destroys their immune system in the same way it does for humans. The Kompetenz initiative writes urgently to bee associations and beekeepers and explains about EM fields and bee colony collapse.

■ **New system of communication is patented and waiting**

By Pawel on 10/8/2009 2:59:46 PM

K Krishna: Can we stop mobiles? No, we can't. But we can realize new system of global communication, who use UV, IR, Visible Light and other, not harmful like microwaves medium. See this: <http://mobilstopp.nu/PDF/A%20Telecom%20strategy.pdf> . Regards from Poland.

■ **Cell phones and honey bees**

By Krishan on 9/18/2009 8:36:33 PM

Cell phones are enormously convenient, even life saving in emergency, but food is priority - One. If the wave spectrum used for cell phone technology is harmful to bees, the cell phone use can be reduced by increasing its cost. But what about Japan and China, where cell phone use is intense. Have the honey bees been affected there in the same way? The question of saving honey bees is no small matter. Our way of life depends on it.

■ **Mobile is another cause of Environmental Pollution**

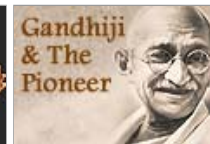
By K Krishna on 9/18/2009 7:39:14 PM

The research in Florida, USA has already proved it. In USA, population of honeybees have reduced by 60% in five years. The cause of this reduction is attributed to "Mobile networks" which have their waves along with n-number of sound waves from radios, tv's, etc. Mobile is another cause of Environmental Pollution. As per Vedas, body can be generated by SOUND (waves), body can be damaged by SOUND (waves). This is what Hatha Yoga Teaches us, and long being recorded in INDIA. Can we stop mobiles?

■ **Honeybees face...**

By sukesh manav on 9/18/2009 8:26:22 AM

The study is of concern to all who love the mother nature. It do affect human beings especially children(beware?). The honey bees will develop mechanism to circumvent the harmful affect of radiations. One needs to learn lessons as humans had very poor thoughtfulness nowadays otherwise we should now be ready to think of previous civilizations like Indus ,Harappa Roman and etc. I believe moblies usually take away from nature. Jai Hind!



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