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# Bees: An Up-Close Look At Pollinators Around The World



## Synopsis

While we eat, work, and sleep, bees are busy around the world. More than 20,000 species are in constant motion! They pollinate plants of all types and keep our natural world intact. In *Bees*, you'll find a new way to appreciate these tiny wonders. Sam Droege and Laurence Packer present more than 100 of the most eye-catching bees from around the world as you've never seen them: up-close and with stunning detail. You'll stare into alien-like faces. You'll get lost in mesmerizing colors and patterns, patches and stripes of arresting yellow or blue. Whether you linger on your first close look at the Western Domesticated Honey Bee or excitedly flip straight to the rare *Dinagapostemon sicheli*, there's no doubt you'll be blown away by the beauty of bees.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

You've probably seen recent headlines about the decline of bee populations. It's a real concern because our food supply is greatly dependent on these hard working little creatures. I was invited to read "Bees". Before opening the book, I expected it to be filled with detailed information ... interesting but not something which would keep me reading. What I found, instead, was a beautiful collection of stunning photographs. The book is divided by region and features bees from Africa, Europe, South America, and more. Each photo is accompanied by a bit of information, just enough to be interesting. The stars of the book are the bees. I found metallic green species and ones the color of ripe tomatoes. Some have "faces" that look like old men while others are furry and cute. There's even one that looks a bit like a flying saucer with antennae. "Bees" would make a wonderful

"coffee table" book. It would also be great in a library. Children will enjoy the images, as will adults. My personal feeling is that we protect what we love. Loving bees has always been a challenge because they can sting. But this book gives us another view of these amazing creatures ... it shows us their beauty and unique place in the world. I believe that this book will help us love bees ... and then, protect them. I received a copy of this book in order to write this review. I received no other compensation. All opinions expressed are mine and mine alone and reflect my honest opinion of the material reviewed.

I'm not a beekeeper - nor have much interest in bees, really (though the decline in their population concern me greatly), but the actual insects themselves? Not so much. What drew me to this book is the photos - the detail is amazing. You literally will look at bees in a new and different way. I never thought I'd think to describe a bee as "cute" until I saw this book. The photos are amazing, incredibly detailed...some of the bees look like something out of a sci-fi movie. And you don't have to know a lot about bees to get into this book - the descriptions of the bees aren't science-heavy or anything like that but very informative and at times, humorous.

Beautiful book, thicker than expected, with lots of photos and info. Quick shipping and high quality. It was a gift for my dad (a beekeeper!) and he loves it!

This is a great book, the illustrations are fantastic, nice highly recommend it. However, I purchased this book from Amazon and the book boards were badly dented. I wanted to let Amazon know about my displeasure with the condition of the book but when I tried to find the feedback section for this book it is nowhere to be found. Thus I am utilizing this venue for that purpose. I don't want to go through all the BS of returning it but should I ever decide to resell it the condition will affect its value. It is a good book though and unless I fall upon dire times I doubt I would sell it.

The bees may be from around the world, but the photography is absolutely out of this world in this beautiful hardcover offering from Sam Droege and Laurence Packer. The detail and clarity of Droege's images are breathtaking, a true celebration of different species of this complex and valuable pollinator. The native bee specimens represented in this book inhabit locations such as Guyana, Chile, Paraguay, South Africa, the United States, India, Thailand, England, and Peru (among others); many come from private or public collections or were personally collected by the authors. It is a delight to armchair travel and learn about the bees that most of us will never be able

to see in our lifetimes: the attractive furry white cape (and contrasting nasty hooked spurs) of the Spurred Grappler (*Trichothurgus dubius*), the Atlas Morning Glory Bee (which, as its name suggests, takes pollen from morning glories – and only morning glories), exquisitely-iridescent *Xylocopa* (carpenter bees), and the tellingly-monikered Red-Butted Campanula Lover (*Melitta haemorrhoidalis*) from England. There are the deep blue *Osmias* from the United States and the Maple Solitary Miner, which takes pollen and nectar in early cold spring from emerging maple trees. The large, metallic green Black-Winged Cuckoo Orchid Bee from Guyana seems almost supernatural, as does the Long-Nosed Sandlover, a bee with a formidably long tongue and head that resides in the Atacama Desert of Chile. The easily-digestible short profiles of each bee offer interesting facts about their habitat, behaviour, and distinguishing features. While this isn't the sort of book that gardeners will likely use to identify the bees in their own landscape, the incredible images and fascinating information make it a must-have in your garden library. Macro photographers – particularly those interested in insects – will find it a true inspiration for their own work.

I was expecting nature shots of bees in their natural habitat and not as desiccated specimens. However, that was the only complaint. This book is a fascinating peek into the many exotic species in the world, some not yet documented (i.e. the page that read "unknown cute bee") and the detailed photos over time made me appreciate the little features on each bee. The shape of the head, the furriness of the abdomen, the happy or grumpy dispositions of each character. I loved especially the paradise cuckoos (parasite bees). Just like what the author wrote in the preface, the book is not designed to be read through meticulously back to back in one setting. It is meant to be picked up out of the blue, paged through, and enthusiastically digested.

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