

**ANAIS DO X ENCONTRO SOBRE ABELHAS**  
**RIBEIRÃO PRETO**



**FUNPEC-Editora**

**Dados Internacionais de Catalogação na Publicação (CIP)  
(Câmara Brasileira do Livro, SP, Brasil)**

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Encontro sobre Abelhas (10. : 2012 : Ribeirão Preto, SP)  
Anais do X Encontro sobre Abelhas. -- Ribeirão Preto, SP :  
FUNPEC Editora, 2012.  
Vários organizadores.

1. Abelhas - Congressos.

12-08896

CDD-595.79906

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**Índices para catálogo sistemático:**

1. Congressos : Abelhas : Zoologia 595.79906

Anais do X Encontro sobre Abelhas. Ribeirão Preto. 2012  
Simões, Z.L.P.; Bitondi, M.M.G.; Bomtorin, A.D.; Nascimento, F.S.

Número de páginas.  
533



**FUNPEC-Editora**

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# ANAIS DO X ENCONTRO SOBRE ABELHAS RIBEIRÃO PRETO

25 a 28 de julho de 2012  
Hotel JP, Ribeirão Preto

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# EUCALYPT POLLEN USE BY *Melipona obscurior* MOURE AND *Apis mellifera* L.: INFLUENCE OF THE LANDSCAPE ON THE HARVESTING BEHAVIOR OF SOCIAL BEES.

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Eucalypt is an exotic plant in Brazil, whose species have attractive flowerings to bee's foraging. Studies on bee registered the frequency of pollen from Eucalyptus spp. compared to other floral sources, without relating to the area occupied by this element around the hives. To evaluate the influence of the landscape on the bee's pollinic diet, was assessed the relation between the proportion of pollen from Eucalyptus spp. harvested by *Apis mellifera* and *Melipona obscurior* and the representativity of this element on the landscape. Every two weeks, pollen was collected from three hives of each bee species, in rural areas of Riozinho and Rolante, Atlantic Forest in south Brazil, from April/2009 to March/2010. The pollinic samples were acetolysed for posterior palynologic analysis. The landscape was classified in an area of 3km around the hives by remote sensing of which eucalypts occupied 4.33% of land cover in Riozinho and 3.62% in Rolante, whose landscape was more fragmented than Riozinho. To verify the possible relation between the proportions of pollen from eucalypts collected by both species with the land cover by eucalypts was applied UNIANOVA with the percentage of use indices. The percentage of pollen from eucalypts harvested by *A. mellifera* and *M. obscurior* was resembling for both ( $p=0.281$ ) and in both areas ( $p=0.061$ ). There was no significative difference in the use index of eucalypts for both bees species ( $p=0.707$ ), in both areas ( $p=0.314$ ) and the interaction of these variables ( $p=0.850$ ). However, the use index ranged significantly relating to data ( $p<0.001$ ). Probably, the attractiveness of massive flowerings from eucalypts to both bees species *A. mellifera* and *M. obscurior* hives, allowed them to use pollen from this plant, in the similar way, in both areas. The use index of eucalypts was influenced by its pollen availability along the year, but independent on landscape characteristics.

**Apoio:** CNPq, CAPES.

**Palavras-chave:** Eucalyptus, Meliponini, Land cover, Honeybee, Pollinic diet

**Seção:** Outros