

THE WORLD OF MELITTOLOGISTS

Melittologists study bees, focusing on their habits, and their interactions with the environment. Melittologists are interested in everything to do with bees!

*Melittologist
(meh-LIT-oh-luh-jist)*



*Melittologists need lots
of different gear like
**microscopes, field kits, and
protective equipment!***

WHAT DO MELITTOLOGISTS DO?

A melittologist's work is really interesting because there is always a chance of making new discoveries.



FIELDWORK

It won't surprise you that field work for a melittologist is mostly outside! Their work focuses on how bees behave, how they connect with nature, and bee biology.

Melittologists will collect and study the effects different pollen has on colonies, as well as develop new hives that can help bees stay safe in winter.

LAB WORK

All the data melittologists collect in the field goes back to a lab. In the lab, everything is recorded.

This includes the size of the hives, general observations about how bees behave, and the number of bees that were found in one area.

Melittologists can track where bee numbers are falling, and try to discover why. Research is very important in protecting and helping bees survive.



WHO DO MELITTOLOGISTS WORK FOR?

Most of the work carried out by melittologists is linked to places of learning, such as universities, where different research projects are being carried out, all about bees and pollination.

Governments of different countries need melittologists to help with food production. Bees play a big role in pollinating the crops of the food that we eat.

Governments also rely on melittologists before allowing new chemicals to be used in food production. Melittologists can make sure they will not harm nature and the bees.

A melittologists' job keeps them busy as a bee!

FAMOUS DISCOVERIES

Melittologists have made so many amazing discoveries that have changed our understanding of bees and the natural world as a whole. Here's just a few of the biggest and best!



SMELLY FOOTPRINTS

At the University of Bristol, scientists have found out that bumblebees use their smelly footprints to tell the difference between their own scent and the scent of other bees. By smelling another bees' footprints on a flower, a bumblebee will know to avoid it.

WORLD'S BIGGEST BEE

In 2019, a team of scientists at the University of Sydney found the world's largest bee in an Indonesian forest, the Wallace's giant bee. This rare species was believed to be extinct as it hadn't been seen by scientists since 1981!



QUEEN BEE

In 1609, scientists discovered that all hives have a queen bee. This was a huge discovery for melittologists! This meant they could better understand how bees behave and interact in their groups.

Melittologists are making discoveries all the time, who knows what they might discover next!

FAMOUS MELITTOLOGISTS

There have been so many clever melittologists over the years.
Here's just a few of the most famous.

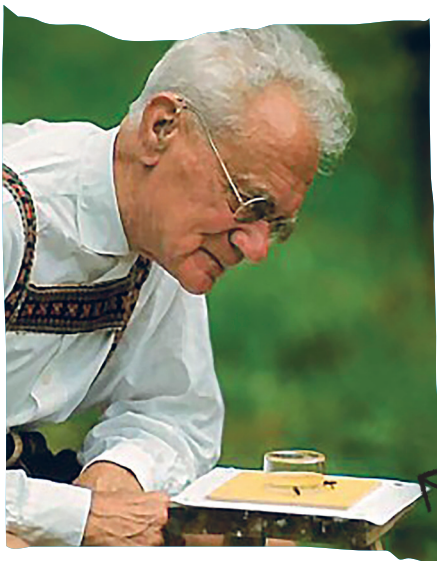


ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

Although he was a biologist, Alfred Russel Wallace made a huge discovery in the world of melittology. He discovered the largest species of bee in 1859, and had it named after him!

CHARLES HENRY TURNER

Charles Henry Turner was an American entomologist, meaning he studied the broader topic of insects. He made a breakthrough bee discovery during his life-long research, finding out that bees can hear, see colour, and can identify patterns and shapes.



KARL VON FRISCH

Karl Von Frisch made many discoveries about different types of animals, including why honeybees dance. He discovered that honeybees waggle their bodies as a way to communicate with other bees!

These are just a few of the many melittologists who have made a huge difference to the science.

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