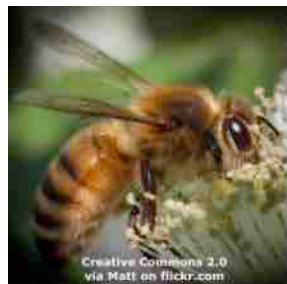


Scientists discover secret about a honey bee's stinger

15th October 2026



Scientists from Macquarie University in Australia have made an exciting discovery about honey bees. The scientists found out why a bee's stinger keeps putting venom into a person's skin after it comes off the bee's body. The scientists used high-

speed cameras to film the tiny stinger, which is only two millimetres long. The video showed that the stinger works like a pump. It has two small parts that move backwards and forwards. These parts push the stinger deeper into a person's skin to help keep the venom flowing. The lead researcher said the design of the pump was "unique". She hopes her discovery will help companies make tiny pumps that could give medicine to people.

A bee sting can be very painful. Most people have pain, redness and swelling after a sting. However, a sting can be dangerous for people who have allergies. Some people have a serious reaction and go into anaphylactic shock. Their face or throat may swell up, or they may have trouble breathing. If someone is stung, they should remove the stinger as quickly as possible. This will help to stop more venom from entering their body. The person should also wash the area with soap and water. In addition, it is a good idea to put an ice pack over the sting to help reduce pain and swelling. If the person feels unwell, someone should call emergency services immediately.

Sources: phys.org / popsci.com / cba.ca

Writing

We should all help honey bees by leaving food for them. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / Australia / discovery / honey bees / venom / skin / pump / medicine / sting / pain / swelling / allergies / anaphylactic shock / breathing / soap / emergency

True / False

- 1) A honey bee's stinger pumps venom even when it comes off the bee. T / F
- 2) The stinger of a honey bee is two millimetres long. T / F
- 3) The honey bee's stinger has four parts inside it. T / F
- 4) Bee stingers could be used to give medicine to people in the future. T / F
- 5) Bee stings are rarely painful. T / F
- 6) Some people go into anaphylactic shock after a bee sting. T / F
- 7) You should never try to remove the stinger after a bee stings you. T / F
- 8) Ice can help reduce the swelling from a bee sting. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. discovery | a. moving |
| 2. keeps | b. similar to |
| 3. like | c. sore |
| 4. flowing | d. pull out |
| 5. medicine | e. finding |
| 6. painful | f. response |
| 7. reaction | g. ill |
| 8. trouble | h. continues to |
| 9. remove | i. drugs |
| 10. unwell | j. problems |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What should someone do if they get stung by a bee?
- c) Do you have any allergies?
- d) What do you know about anaphylactic shock?
- e) How important are bees?
- f) What would you do if there was a beehive in your garden?
- g) What do you think of the hobby of beekeeping?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

Phrase Match

1. made an exciting discovery
 2. a bee's stinger keeps putting venom
 3. scientists used high-
 4. two small parts that move
 5. help keep the venom
 6. Most people have pain, redness
 7. dangerous for people who
 8. Their face or
 9. help to stop more venom from
 10. someone should call emergency
- a. have allergies
 - b. backwards and forwards
 - c. services
 - d. and swelling
 - e. into a person's skin
 - f. flowing
 - g. entering their body
 - h. about honey bees
 - i. throat may swell up
 - j. speed cameras

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about honey bees?
- b) What do you think of honey?
- c) How afraid are you of bees?
- d) What are the differences between bees, wasps and hornets?
- e) Have you ever been stung by a bee?
- f) What do you do when a bee flies near your head?
- g) What do you know about honey bees being endangered?
- h) How can we help honey bees?

Spelling

1. made an exciting crisevod
2. istesinsct used high-speed cameras
3. move backwards and sworrafd
4. keep the nomev flowing
5. the design of the pump was gnuiue
6. give ieicmden to people
7. A bee sting can be very npliauf
8. pain, redness and ligelnsu
9. dangerous for people who have llaseiger
10. people have a serious ociaentr
11. their face or aothtr
12. call eceyrgmen services

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. a	5. i
6. c	7. f	8. j	9. d	10. g

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	In which country was the research in the news article conducted?
2.	What did scientists use to film a honey bee's stinger?
3.	What does a honey bee's stinger work like?
4.	What did a researcher say was unique?
5.	What did a researcher say her discovery might be used to give people?
6.	What might people have after a bee sting besides pain and redness?
7.	For whom are bee stings particularly dangerous?
8.	What might people have trouble doing if they have anaphylactic shock?
9.	What can reduce the pain and swelling of a bee sting?
10.	Who should people call if they feel unwell after a bee sting?

Speaking – Venomous bugs

Rank these with your partner. Put the scariest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Bees
- Fire ants
- Scorpions
- Hornets
- Tarantulas
- Kissing bugs
- Black widow spiders
- Giant centipedes

Answers – True False

1	T	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.