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Effects of electromagnetic radiation on bees and pollination dynamics

Pallavi Pediredla[1], Satheesh Ampolu[2*], Santhi Priya Dalai[3], Usha Hanumantu[4]
[1] Department of Optometry, School of Paramedics and Allied health sciences, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh, India
[2] Department of Chemistry, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh, India
[3] Department of Chemistry, Govt. Degree College, Gajapathinagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India
[4] Department of Chemistry, Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract
Through pollination, honeybees contribute significantly to ecological balance and food security. However, honeybee populations are seriously threatened by the growing exposure to electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from wireless gadgets, cell phones, and other technological improvements. The effects of EMR on honeybee physiology, behavior, and colony health are investigated in this study. The main conclusions show that extended exposure to EMR impairs navigational processes, resulting in confusion and decreased foraging abilities. EMR has also been connected to immune system weakness and reduced reproductive success, which increases the susceptibility of colonies to illness. The work draws attention to the possible mechanisms underlying these effects, including disruption of cellular functions and magnetoreception. Multidisciplinary strategies that incorporate sustainable behaviors, environmental preservation, and technological control are needed to address this issue. The results highlight the necessity of reducing EMR exposure in order to protect honeybee colonies and maintain ecological stability. A basic ecological activity, pollination is essential to ecosystem stability, biodiversity, and agricultural productivity. However, pollinators and the pollination process may be at risk because to the growing incidence of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from contemporary wireless communication devices. According to this article, EMR interferes with pollinators' behavior, ability to navigate, and physiological well-being, which has a domino impact on plant reproduction, biodiversity, and food security.

Keywords: Electro magnetic radiation(emr), magnetoreception, biodiversity, bees, pollination

Introduction

Electromagnetic radiation (EMR) is a form of radiation that propagates in waves and encompasses both electric and magnetic fields. Radiation that travels in waves and includes both electric and magnetic fields is known as electromagnetic radiation (EMR). It comes from both natural and artificial sources. There is a range of energy levels in electromagnetic radiation. It includes visible light, ultraviolet light, radio waves, microwaves, gamma and X-rays, and infrared radiation (Figure 1). When a charged atomic particle, such an electron, is accelerated by an electric field, electromagnetic radiation is released. Motion produces both magnetic and electric fields, which oscillate and spread perpendicular to one another. The characteristics of waves can be described as energy, wavelength, or frequency [1-6]. Because they pollinate crops, honeybees are essential to preserving ecological balance and agricultural productivity. However, there are worries about the possible impacts of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) on these vital pollinators due to its fast expansion via mobile networks, Wi-Fi, and other wireless communication systems. Because honeybees rely so heavily on their innate communication signals, navigation skills, and colony behaviors, exposure to EMRs may interfere with these functions. According to recent research, electromagnetic fields may affect the bees' ability to perceive their surroundings, how well they forage, and even how likely they are to survive. It is essential to comprehend how electromagnetic radiation affects honeybees in order to maintain global food security and biodiversity as well as bee numbers. This article examines the scientific data on the subject, illuminating the ways in which EMR may affect honeybees and emphasizing the necessity of responsible technological development to protect their survival (Figure2 &3). In order to facilitate plant reproduction, pollen is sent from a flower's male anther to the female stigma during the crucial process of pollination. More than a third of the world's food crops and more than 75% of flowering plants rely on animal-mediated pollination, mostly by bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators [7-12]. A growing number of environmental stresses, such as habitat loss, pesticide exposure, and climate change, are endangering the integrity of pollination networks. According to new research, electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from cell towers, Wi-Fi networks, and cell phones may make these problems worse by impairing pollinators' capacity to do their jobs.

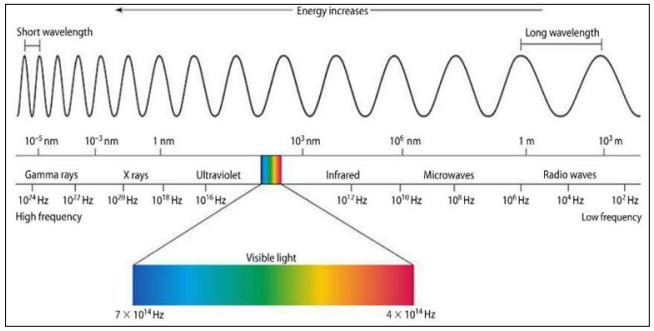

Fig 1: Types of Electromagnetic Radiation

Table 1: Different types of electromagnetic waves

S.No.	Type of Radiation	Frequency Range (Hz)	Wavelength Range
1	Gamma-rays	$10^{20} – 10^{24}$	$< 10^{-12}$ m
2	X-rays	$10^{17} – 10^{20}$	1 nm – 1 pm
3	Ultraviolet	$10^{15} – 10^{17}$	400 nm – 1 nm
4	Visible	$4 \times 10^{14} – 7.5 \times 10^{14}$	750 nm – 400 nm
5	Near IR	$1 \times 10^{14} – 4 \times 10^{14}$	2.5 μm – 750 nm
6	IR	$10^{13} – 10^{14}$	25 μm – 2.5 μm
7	Microwaves	$3 \times 10^{11} – 10^{13}$	1 mm – 25 μm
8	Radio waves	$< 3 \times 10^{11}$	> 1 mm

Discussion

Honey bee populations near cell phone towers suffer adverse effects from electromagnetic radiation. Several years prior, a correlation was identified in the US between the sudden decline of bee populations and a rise in electromagnetic radiation pollution. Colony collapse disorder (CCD) refers to a phenomenon of honey bee death, characterized by bees' inability to identify their colony due to persistent electromagnetic radiation pollution. As vital pollinators, honeybees support biodiversity and global food security. However, environmental stresses such habitat loss, pesticides, illnesses, and electromagnetic radiation have become a worry due to the recent global drop in honeybee populations [13-18]. Natural environments are now experiencing previously unheard-of levels of EMR due to the quick development of wireless communication networks, especially 4G and 5G. In order to comprehend how EMR exposure affects honeybee behavior, physiology, and general colony dynamics, this manuscript examines recent findings.

Mechanisms of interaction between emr and honeybees

Honeybees mostly rely on their abilities to navigate utilizing polarized light, the sun, and natural electromagnetic fields. Artificial EMR could interfere with these procedures and cause

- **Magnetoreception**: The magnetoreceptive skills of honey bees aid in their self-orientation. Disorientation and a decreased capacity to return to the hive can result from EMR in the radiofrequency spectrum.
- **Communication**: Honeybees communicate by waggle dancing and using pheromones. EMR may affect resource harvesting and colony cooperation by interfering with these signals.
- **Cellular stress and dna damage**: It has been demonstrated that honeybees exposed to high EMR levels experience oxidative stress, which damages their cells and compromises their immune system.
- **Thermal effects**: Honeybees' metabolic and physiological processes may be impacted by localized heating brought on by prolonged exposure to high-frequency EMR.

Behavioral and physiological effects

- **Navigation errors**: Research indicates a rise in the number of honeybees that do not return to their colonies following exposure to EMR. This "homing failure" may lead to colony collapse and decreased foraging efficiency.
- **Altered foraging patterns**: Bees exposed to EMR have shown alterations in their foraging habits, including fewer visits to flowers and different pollen gathering habits.
- **Reduced reproductive success**: The sustainability of colonies is at risk since EMR exposure has been connected to lower worker bee longevity and queen fertility.
- **Immune suppression**: Honeybees are more vulnerable to diseases like Nosema and Varroa destructor infestations when their immune is weakened by prolonged exposure to EMR.

Implications for colony health and ecosystems

Individual bees' compromised behavior and physiology can have a domino effect that puts entire colonies at risk. EMR radiation may worsen Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), which is typified by the mass loss of worker bees. Decreases in honeybee populations have a severe impact on biodiversity, natural ecosystems, and agriculture worldwide [19-22].

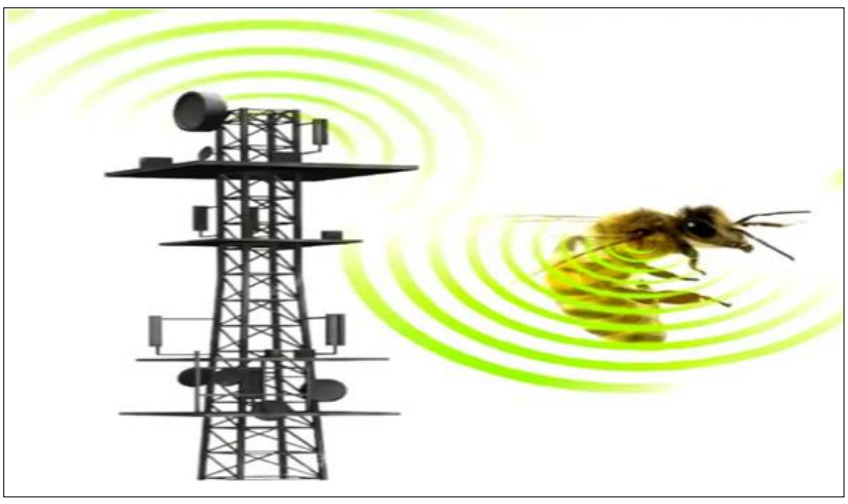

Fig 2: Impact of Electromagnetic Radiation on bee

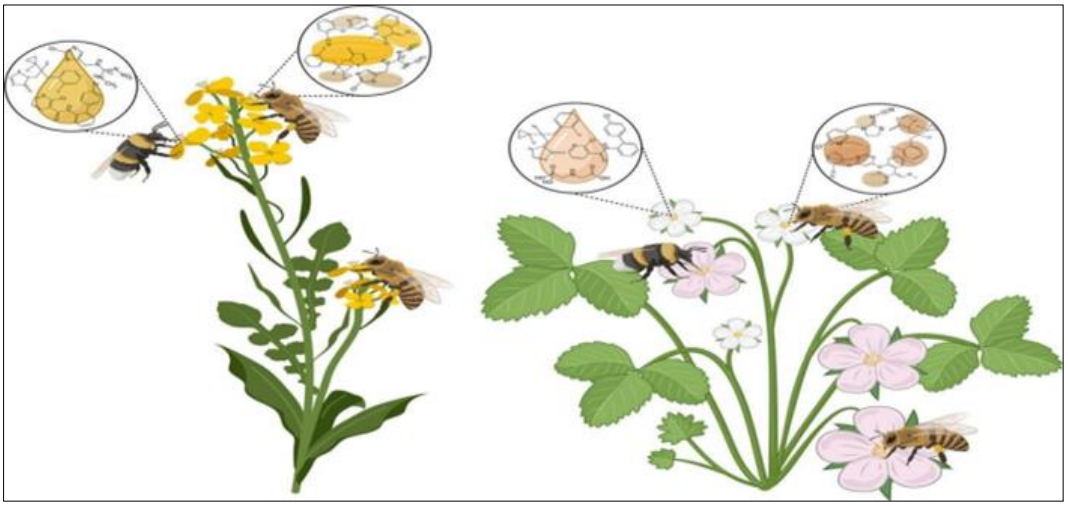

Fig 3: Pollination Process by bees

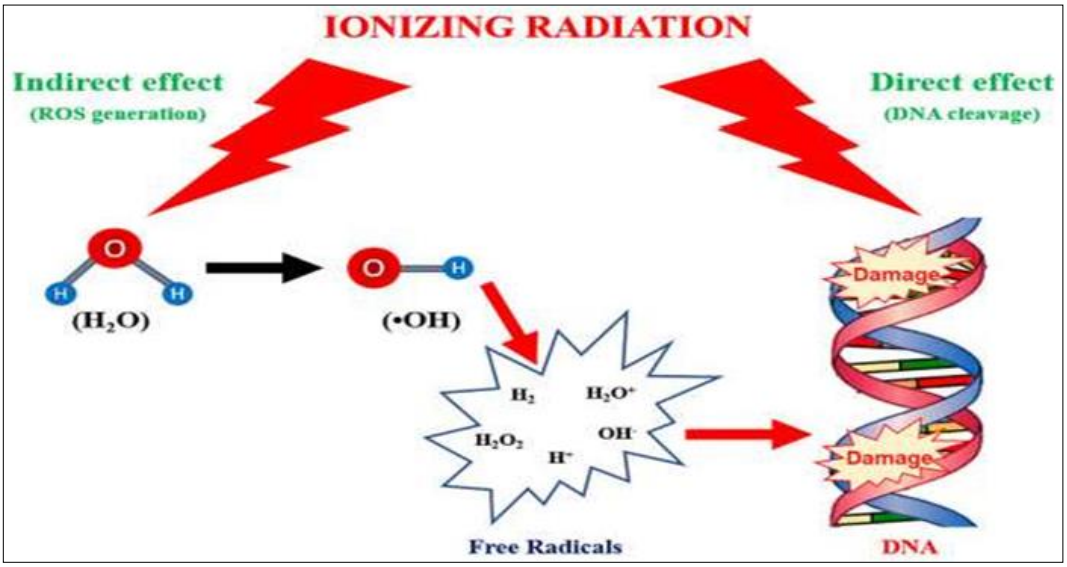

Fig 4: Process of Ionization Radiation

Impact on pollination

Stress caused by EMR on bees has far-reaching effects on pollination. Reduced pollination rates result from bees that are disturbed or disoriented being less effective at gathering food and spreading pollen. Crop yields, biodiversity, and plant reproduction are all impacted by this reduction. For example, crops that rely heavily on pollination, such as sunflowers, apples, and almonds, may have large output losses, which would affect the world's food security [23-25].

Mechanisms of emr impact on pollinators

Navigation disruption

For navigation, pollinators like bees use solar signals and magnetoreception. Disorientation and decreased foraging efficiency can result from EMR's interference with these natural orientation processes. Pollinators that are disoriented may not find flowers or find their way back to their nests, which would decrease their pollination contribution.

Behavioral changes

Changes in pollinators' feeding habits have been linked to EMR exposure. For instance, bees may become less active, spend less time on blossoms, and communicate less effectively within their colonies. Plant reproductive performance is impacted by these disturbances because they reduce the number and efficiency of pollination visits [26].

Physiological stress and health decline

Pollinators' immune systems and cellular integrity may be harmed by oxidative stress brought on by EMR. Pollinators may become weaker after prolonged exposure, which would lower their numbers and pollination availability. Both individual species and the larger ecological functions that pollinators provide are impacted by declining pollinator health.

Impact on other pollinators

Although bees have been the main subject of investigation, EMR can also affect other pollinators such as butterflies, birds, and bats. Their modified feeding habits, reproductive cycles, and migratory behaviors make pollination networks much more difficult to manage.

Consequences for pollination and ecosystems

Reduced pollination rates

Fewer effective pollination events are the result of pollinator efficiency and abundance declining as a result of EMR exposure. The stability of plant populations is threatened by

the decreased fruit and seed production experienced by plants that rely on biotic pollinators [27].

Threats to biodiversity

Plant diversity is impacted when pollination services are disrupted because species that depend on specialized pollinators may not be able to reproduce. Herbivores, predators, and other interdependent species are all impacted by this loss of plant biodiversity, which ripples across ecosystems.

Agricultural productivity decline

When pollinators are harmed, crops that rely significantly on pollination—like tomatoes, apples, coffee, and almonds lose production. Farmers and global food supply systems are affected economically by this decline in crop productivity.

Imbalance in ecosystems

One essential mechanism for preserving the equilibrium of an ecosystem is pollination. Certain plant species may become more dominant as a result of disturbances, changing the availability and structure of habitat for different organisms.

Mitigation strategies

- **Buffer zones**: Establishing barriers or electromagnetic-free areas close to apiaries to protect hives from dangerous radiation.
- **Research and monitoring:** Monitoring bee health in regions with significant EMR activity and extending research on the long-term impacts of EMR on pollinators.
- **Policy and regulation:** To prevent needless exposure, governments should impose restrictions on EMR emissions, especially in the vicinity of natural pollinator habitats and agricultural fields.
- **Research and monitoring:** To fully comprehend the scope and mechanisms of EMR's effects on pollinators, longer-term research is required. In regions where EMR exposure is substantial, pollinator population monitoring can yield important mitigation insights.
- **Technological innovation:** Pollinator harm can be reduced by creating communication systems with reduced radiation emissions and encouraging the adoption of EMR-safe activities.
- **Habitat restoration and conservation:** To counteract the harmful effects of EMR, pollinator-friendly habitats can be created, such as pesticide-free zones and wildflower corridors.
- **Public awareness campaigns:** Educating people and organizations about the connection between EMR and pollination might motivate them to embrace pollinator-friendly practices and technology.

Conclusion

In conclusion, because honeybees are essential pollinators that sustain ecological balance and boost agricultural productivity, the impacts of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) on these insects are a developing concern. According to research, honeybee navigation, foraging behavior, communication, and general health can all be negatively impacted by exposure to EMR, especially from cell phones, Wi-Fi, and other wireless technology. These effects are explained by the bees' susceptibility to electromagnetic fields, which disrupts their physiological functions and innate magnetoreception systems. In addition to ensuring honeybees' survival, protecting them from electromagnetic stress is critical for biodiversity and global food security. With serious repercussions for ecosystems and agriculture, electromagnetic radiation is a serious and frequently disregarded threat to pollination processes. An interdisciplinary strategy combining scientific research, technology developments, and policy interventions is needed to address this challenge. We can save pollinators and guarantee the sustainability of pollination services, which support global biodiversity and food security, by proactively reducing the effects of EMR.

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