

## Preliminary Survey of Poisonous, Useful and Medicinal Bee Plants in Ethiopia: Review

<sup>1</sup>Ahmed Hassen\*, <sup>2</sup>Meseret Muche

### Author's Affiliation

<sup>1,2</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Natural and Computational Sciences, Woldia University, Woldia, Ethiopia

### \*Corresponding Author:

**Ahmed Hassen**

Department of Biology,  
Faculty of Natural and Computational Sciences,  
Woldia University, Woldia, Ethiopia  
E-mail:  
[ah4674763@gmail.com](mailto:ah4674763@gmail.com)

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Ethiopia is one of the world's hotspot areas in biodiversity including poisonous, useful and medicinal higher honey bee plants. However, some are poisonous and lethal to honey bees and humans. This attracts attentions across the globe. There are major gaps in knowledge of exploring local poisonous, useful and medicinal honey bee flora of the country.

**Aim:** The main purpose of this review was so survey of poisonous, medicinal and useful honey bee plant species, document the most common poisonous plant species to Ethiopia and the world; and then to reach on conclusion in comparison of different authors findings.

**Methods:** Various studies from different electronic data bases(Google scholar, Science direct, PubMed, Scopus) and from repositories were searched and assessed on the poisonous, useful and medicinal honey bee plants of Ethiopia.

**Discussion:** Flowering plants provide nectar and pollen or both for bees. However, some species are poisonous to honey bees. Sixty nine poisonous honey bee plant species belonging to 33 families were found as result. Highest number of species were recorded in Ericaceae (7) followed by Solanaceae (6) and Fabaceae (6). Ranunculaceae and Solonaceae represented with 5 species each. Most of them exist as exotic (37) whilst 26 of them were nativespecies. *Datura stramonium*, *corynocarpus laevigata*, *piptadenia stipulate*, *Echium plantagineum*, *Erythrina fusca*, *Thevetia peruviana* etc. are invasive species while *Euphorbia heterophylla*, *Lupinus perennis*, *Lupin albus* L., *Brugmansia aurea*, *Euphorbia cotinifolia*, *Nerium oleander*, *Delphinium elatum* and *Asclepias syriaca* L are mainly planted for Ornamental purposes. And also, few of them are Invasive and parasitic plants (*Lathraea clandestine* where it parasites the root of various plants especially legumes, *Cuscuta abyssinica* A. Rich, *C. australis* and *C. acuta* etc.

In **Conclusion**, Future studies that look into the simultaneous impacts of poisonous, useful and medicinal bee plants on bee keeping activity would more accurately illuminate our understanding of the underlying relationships.

## INTRODUCTION

### Honey bee flora diversity of Ethiopia

Ethiopia is the fifth largest floral country in tropical Africa that earns attention across the globe. This is due to its plant diversity with an estimated number between 6,500 and 7,000 higher plant species (Teklu Gbretsadik, 2016). To Surprise, 60% of these plants are indigenous to the country (Balcha Abera, 2003). Endemic plants from this number account an incredible proportion (Edwards Sue, 1976) and about 1500 species were identified as honeybee forage sources (Edwards Sue, 1976; Fichtl and Addi, 1994). From 1500 species, 500 were identified and published at national level (Fichtl and Addi, 1994).

Honey bees are the primary and critical pollinators in the ecology for the conservation of honey bee plant diversity (Fichtl, and Addi, 1994; Plants.ces.ncsu.edu., 2019). Honey bee plants develop colorful flower, wholesome sweet and pleasant to attract pollinators. On the other hand, a number of plant species are reported to be poisonous to honeybees and humans that caused serious health problems (Schulz-Langner, 1966; Lewis, 1998; McGovern, 1999; Mark Ekpri, 2018). Thus, adequate knowledge about honeybee flora is important for beekeeping. Though, there have been some attempts in exploring poisonous and medicinal bee plants of the country, there was as yet no in depth survey was done till now. Hence, identifying the availability of major honeybee forage species is critical for bee keepers to choose economically important and keep away their colony from poisonous plant species.

### Honey bee varieties and honey production potential of Ethiopia

Ethiopia is an astonishing country for its diversified flowering plants, varied seasons and agro-climatic conditions together created enormous number of bee colonies in the country (Dawit Abebe, 1986; Balcha Abera, 2003; Arnold, 2014). It is estimated as it has over ten million bee colonies with over 6 million hives (Arthur YAU, 2013; Ayalew, 1990; USAID, 2012) which made it the fourth largest country in the world following India, China and Turkey (Ayalew, 1990; Schulz-Langner, 1966). It has a capacity of 500,000 tons honey harvesting annually (Central Statistics Authority, 2015; EIAR, 2017); the ninth in the world and first in Africa honey producer (Tesfaye et al., 2017). It is also the third in the world and first bee wax producer in Africa (MoARD, 2003). It only produces 53,675 tons of honey. This shows that the country is producing less than 10% of its potential (Central Statistics Authority, 2015).

Five common bee varieties are found in different ecological zone of the country. These are: *Apis mellifera jemenitica*, *Apis mellifera adansanii*, *Apis mellifera monticola*, *Apis mellifera litorea* and *Apis mellifera abyssinica* (Amsalu, 2004).

### Poisonous honey bee plants

Honey bees rely on flowering plants pollen and nectar or both to feed themselves and their larvae as food sources (Admassu et al., 2014). In fact, all honey bee plants are not equally important for a variety of bee species in their life and honey production (Nuru, 1996) because nectar from certain flowers is toxic and the resulting honey can cause serious health problems. Indeed, this may be harmless to certain bee species and their larvae (Fichtl and Addi, 1994). A lot of research findings have documented the presence of deterrent or toxic compounds in pollen and nectar to confront honey bees as defense, even kill pollinators (Adler, 2000; Cristina et al., 2004; Mesquita et al., 2010; Junior et al., 2012; Stangaciu, 2015-16). Some of these poisonous honey bee plants are described as follow.

Well known plant families that make poisonous honey from their toxic pollen and nectar are found in Ericaceae, Ranunculaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Solanaceae, Plantaginaceae and Acanthaceae (Edwards Sue, 1976). All parts of *Convallaria majalis*, *Brugmansia* species, *Alstroemeria* species, *Lantana camara*, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, and *Aconitum napellus* are highly toxic to humans and honey bees (Plants.ces.ncsu.edu., 2019). The most frequent toxic honey bee plants in many research findings includes *Rhododendron luteum*, *R. ponticum*, *R. flavum*, *Datura stramonium*, *Kemla latifolia*, *Aconitum napellus*, *Aconitum anthora*, *Nerium oleander*, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, *Pieris japonica* and

*Zygadenus cenesosus* (Ekpri, 2018). As a result of harmful toxic honey from *Rhododendrons* species are responsible for producing the world's first recorded chemical weapons known (Stevenson *et al.*, 2016) and best known natural toxin (Grayanotoxin) that kill honey bees (Jansen *et al.*, 2012; Arthur YAU, 2013). Perilous compounds such as alkaloids and phenolics are plenty in nectar of different plant species (Baker, 1977). Grayanotoxin and Diterpenoids chemicals from *Rhododendron ponticum* pollen and nectar lead to rapid mortality in *Apis mellifera*, behavioral effect in *Andrena carantonica* (Sanna, 1931; Tiedeken *et al.*, 2014; Tiedeken *et al.*, 2016). These studies also strengthen by (Stephenson, 2014) as natural toxins in nectar and pollen can poison insects and affect their memory, behaviour and reproductive success. Toxins in bumble bees causes to produce fewer offspring while chemicals found in *Rhododendron* nectar are toxic to honeybees but not bumble bees, toxic effects that could be contributing to the worrying decline in pollinator species.

Poison from *Rhododendron* is known as 'Mad honey poisoning' which shows excess salivation and perspiration, weakness, dizziness and numbing of limbs will develop after consumption (Arthur YAU, 2013). Thus, honey produced from the pollen and nectar of *Ericaceae* family is toxic to humans (Treza, 2011; Skinner, 2019; Stevenson, 2016) and lead to paralysis if taken in excess or can slowly kill (Ekpri, 2018).

*Aconitum* species (such as *Aconitum napellus*, *A. septentrionale*, *A. anthora* etc.) are commonly known as Queen of poisons (Chisholm, 1911). They contain the most potent plant toxins, acotitine (Warrell and Eddleston, 2013) and defensive alkaloids in their pollen (Gosselin, 2013). This precarious compound is a fatal poison to most animals (Kevan and Ebert, 2005). Honey from its pollen and nectar is known to cause cardiotoxic and neurotoxic to humans (Jaeger, 1961). All parts of *Aconitum* plants are also reported as toxic even though toxicity decreases from the root tip towards the flower (Brent Furbee, 2009).

Frequent research findings revealed that *Kalmia latifolia* (Palmer-Jones & Line, 1962; Pryce-Joxes, 1944), *Solanum nigrum* (Palmer-Jones & Line, 1962), *Veratrum californicum* (Vansell and Watkins, 1933; Eckert, 1946; Mussen, 1979), *Helenium autumnale* (Pryce-Joxes, 1944), *Zygadenus cenesosus* (Eckert, 1946; Mussen, 1979), *Corynocarpus laevigata* (Palmer-Jones & Line (1962), *Angelica triquetra* (Bell, 1971), *Ochroma lagopus* (Paula, 1997) and species from the genus of *Cuscuta* (Palmer-Jones & Line, 1962), *Sophora* (Clinch, 1972), *Tilia* (Crane, 1977) and *Asclepias* (Eckert, 1946; Mussen, 1979) are toxic to honey bees. In addition to these, *Euphorbia cotinifolia* (Getachew, 2012), *Croton macrostachyus*, *Piptadenia stipulacea* (Mesquita *et al.*, 2010), *Euphorbia geniculata* (Deodikar, 1959) and *Tutu* plant (Arthur YAU, 2013; Fuentealba *et al.*, 2007) are regarded as toxic to honeybees. Direct snipping of the flower nectar or consuming its honey caused humans paralyzed and dead in *Gelsemium sempervirens* (Skinner, 2019), vomiting and diarrhea in *Justicia schimperiana* (Tesfaye, 2014; Nuru, 1996).

The brood and adult bees can be poisoned from the pollen and nectar of *Aesculus californica* (Eckert, 1946; Palmer-Jones *et al.*, 1947; Levinson, 1976) and *Astragalus lentiginosus* (Grout, 1949; Vansell, and Watkins, 1933; Mussen, 1979; Majak *et al.*, 1980) that caused to the losses of the colonies from its range (Skinner, 2019). This is due to its highly toxic ingredients (Deodikar *et al.*, 1958) as the same as the nectar of yellow jasmine have reduced pollen receipt and lethal effect on the brood and queen bees (Adler, 2000; Manson and Thomson, 2009; Manson *et al.*, 2012; Otterstatter *et al.*, 2010; Pryce-Joxes, 1944). In fact, nectar from *Cyrilla racemiflora* cause purple brood (Skinner, 2019) and highly poisonous to adult bees only in *Corynocarpus laevigata* tree (Palmer-Jones *et al.*, 1947; Palmer-Jones & Line, 1962).

A lot of plant species as such *Spathodea capanulata*, *Ranunculus multifidus* (Harugade *et al.*, 2016), *Ochroma lagopus* (Palmer-Jones *et al.*, 1947), *Amygdalus communis* (Kevan and Ebert, 2005) and *Lasiosiphon eriocephalus* (Chaubal, & Deodikar, 1963) produce pollen or nectar or both which can adversely affect honey bees. This is also common to cases killing the adults (such as *Toxicoscordion*), creating a problem only when passed to the brood.

The presence of chancy toxic chemicals in *Camellia thea* (Sharma *et al.*, 1986), *Tilia platyphyllos* (Butler, 1943), *Asclepias syriaca* and *Asclepias albicans* (Pryce-Jones, 1942) causes paralysis and deaths to bees and their larvae. Honey from *Lasiosiphon eriocephalus* pollen adversely cause severe nausea and

vomiting (Chaubal, & Deodikar, 1963) and irritates when eaten in *Brugmansia arborea* (Getachew, 2012). Honey from *Senecio vernalis*, *Lupinus mutabilis* and *S. eupatorium* pollen and nectar known to causes the mortality of honey bees and insects (Arthur YAU, 2013; Hartmann, 1999; Arnold, 2014).

Pollen from all Ranunculus, Echium and Asteraceae species contain metabolites for defense mechanisms that result high mortality rates for pollinators (Bergstrom et al., 1995; Kempf, 2010). Higher concentration alkaloid in Nicotiana nectar reduces larval survival of honeybees (Kessler & Baldwin, 2008; Singaravelan et al., 2005; Kohler et al., 2012; Human et al., 2014; Richardson et al., 2015) as same as Echium pollen (Trunz et al., 2017) which is repellent and toxic to several types of insects (Detzel, 1993; Levinson, 1976). *Azadirachta indica* is used as a pesticide and insect repellent (Karunamoorthi et al., 2009; Mesquita et al., 2010) and Pollen of it is allergenic to humans (Boral, 2004). Unlike the nectar, these chemicals in the pollen of *Prunus amygdalus* are repellent to different bee species (Singaravelan et al., 2006; Wright et al., 2010; Tiedeken et al., 2014).

An extraordinary concentration of purine alkaloid in the nectar of Citrus species is repellent to honeybees (Singaravelan et al., 2005; Mustard et al., 2012; Wright et al., 2013; Couvillon et al., 2015; Thomson et al., 2015) and is pesticide that prevents insect feeding (Nathanson, 1984) as the same as in Dipsacusspecies (Faizal and Geelen, 2013). This is also true in *Lupinus perennis* and *L. albus*, Phalaenopsis, Delphinium species (e.g. *Delphinium elatum*), Sinningia species (Emrich, 1991, Kordan et al., 2012). To Surprise, All species of the genus Delphinium are toxic to humans and livestock (Wiese, 2013) that can cause severe digestive discomfort (Olsen et al., 1990; Wiese, 2013). It also can causes death through cardiotoxic and neuro-muscular blocking effects (Smith, 2002).

According to (Thomson et al., 2015), honey from poisonous plants has detrimental effect on honeybees and human beings. This can be from *macrostachyus*, *Sobralia violacea*, *Sobralia rosea*, and *Justicia schimperiana* (Cingel, 2001; Pij and Dodson, 1966).

Pollen and nectar from *Toxicoscordion paniculatum* had a neurotoxic alkaloid (Can, 2018). Most parts of *Ricinus communis*, oleander species (Bandara et al., 2010) and *Convallaria majalis* (Lewis, 1998; Nelson et al., 2007) are potentially poisonous. *Pieris japonica* is poisonous if consumed by people or animal (Smith, 1978) there is neurotoxin in its petals, leaves and pollen. It can cause painful burning in the mouth whenever eaten and could lead to seizures, temporary blindness or even a coma (Robinson, 2015).

### Medicinal honey bee plants

Bees collect essential pollen and nectar from flowering plants to feed themselves and their larvae (Haydak, 1970). Honey obtained from honey bee plants has been used to treat various human ailments and wounds in ancient Indian, Chinese, Romans, Greeks, Arabs and Egyptians (McGovern, 1999).

A number of research studies indicate that honey has antimicrobial effects. This includes antibacterial, antiviral, anti-ulcer activities, anti-inflammatory, antihyperlipidemic, antidiabetic and anticancer properties (Erejuwa et al., 2010; Viuda-Martos et al., 2008). The colony life as whole and its products such as wax and honey depend on the abundance and diversity of plants in the ecology (Schmidt et al., 1987). In other way, honey from variety of flowers seem to play an important role in immunity (Alaux, 2013). Some of the important medicinal honey bee plants in Ethiopia are below.

*Rosmarinus officinalis* is widely used as antiseptic agent, treat relaxing problems with menstruation, stress and digestive related problems. *Sanguinaria Canadensis* is also highly accepted for their medicinal properties even if its toxic properties to humans (Croaker et al., 2016). A lot of studies revealed that *Lantana camara*'s leaves, stems and flowers are used to treat influenza, cough, mumps, persistent high fever, malaria, TB, Dermatitis and Rheumatism. This is the same in *Datura stramonium*, which is mainly used against asthmatic breathing troubles, heart problems, worms, tooth ache, fever, and mental disorder and famous in homeopathy if taken in small amount. Moreover, *Nerium oleander* is an important plant that can act as immune-stimulating power, against cancer, hepatitis and psoriasis (Stangaciu, 2015-16).

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**Table1:** List of Common defensive and poisonoushoney bee plants in Ethiopia

No	Scientific name of the plant	Common name	Family	Status	SP	References for its poisonous
1	<i>Aconitum anthora</i>	Queen of poison	Ranunculaceae	Exotic	MN	Brent Furbee, 2009; Chisholm, 1911; Warrell and Eddleston, 2013
2	<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Monks hood	Ranunculaceae	Not found	MN	Chisholm, 1911; Furbee, 2009; Ameri, 1998; Warrell and Eddleston, 2013
3	<i>Aconitum septentrionale</i>	Northern variant	Ranunculaceae	Exotic	MN	Furbee, 2009; Chisholm, 1911; Warrell and Eddleston, 2013
4	<i>Aesculus californica</i> *	California Buckeye	Sapindaceae	No evidence	PN	Eckert, 1946; Palmer-Jones <i>et al.</i> , 1947; Skinner, 2019; Deodikar <i>et al.</i> , 1958
5	<i>Aesculus hippocastaneum</i> @* Saponin	Horse chest nut	Sapindaceae	No evidence	PN	Schulz-Langner, 1966
6	<i>Amygdalus communis</i> L.	Almond	Rosaceae	Ind.	PN	Kevan and Ebert, 2005
7	<i>Angelica triqueta</i> *	Mountain angelica	Apiaceae	Exotic	PN	Bell, 1971
8	<i>Arbutus unedo</i> @ <i>arbutin</i> (glycoside)	-----	Ericaceae	Ind.	PN	Pryces-Jones, 1942
9	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> L.* <i>Galitoxin</i>	Milkweed	Apocynaceae	Ind.	PN	Pryces-Jones, 1942; Mussen, 1979; Eckert, 1946
10	<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> *	Milk vetech	Fabaceae	Exotic	PN	Mussen, 1979; Eckert, 1946; Majak <i>et al.</i> , 1980
11	<i>Atropa belladonna</i> @ Alkaloids	-----	Solanaceae	Ind.	PN	Detzel and Wink, 1993
12	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem plant	Meliaceae	Exotic	PN	Mesquita <i>et al.</i> , 2010
13	<i>Bersama abyssinica</i>	Winged bersama	Meliantaceae	Ind.	PN	Bekele, 2007
14	<i>Brugmansia arborea</i>	Angel's trumpets	Solanaceae	Exotic	PN	Getachew <i>et al.</i> , 2012
15	<i>Brugmansia aurea</i>	Golden angels trumpet	Solanaceae	Exotic	PN	Detzel and Wink, 1993
16	<i>Camellia thea</i> *	Tea tree	Theaceae	Exotic	PN	Sharma <i>et al.</i> , 1986
17	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i> @ Alkaloids	-----	Campanulaceae	Ind.	PN	Baker and Baker, 1975

18	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the valley	Asparagaceae	Exotic	PN	Lewis, 1998; Ellenhorn <i>et al.</i> , 2004; Nelson <i>et al.</i> , 2007
19	<i>Corynocarpus laevigata</i> *	karaka tree	Corynocarpaceae	Ind., invasive	PN	Palmer-Jones & Line, 1962; Levinson, 1976
20	<i>Croton macrostachyus</i>	Broad-leaved croton	Euphorbiaceae	Ind.	PN	Getachew, 2012; Chisholm, 1911
21	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> @ Alkaloids	Summer squash	Cucurbitaceae	Ind.	PN	Baker and Baker, 1975
22	<i>Cuscuta abyssinica</i> A.Rich	Scald weed	Convolvulaceae	Ind.	PN	Palmer-Jones & Line, 1962
23	<i>Cuscuta salina</i> @ Alkaloids	-----	Convolvulaceae	Ind.	PN	Baker and Baker, 1975
24	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Leather wood	Cyrillaceae	No evidence	N	Mussen, 1979; Eckert, 1946
25	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jimson weed, thorn apple	Solanaceae	Exotic, Invasive	PN	Ekpri, 2018
26	<i>Delphinium elatum</i>	Candle Larkspur	Ranunculaceae	Exotic	PN	Wiese, 2013; Smith, 2002
27	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> L.	Teasel	Caprifoliaceae	Ind., invasive	PN	Faizal and Geelen, 2013
28	<i>Echium plantagineum</i> @ Pyrrolizidine alkaloid	Paterson's curse	Boraginaceae	Exotic a, Invasive	PN	Culvenor <i>et al.</i> , 1981
29	<i>Ehretia cymosa</i>	-----	Boraginaceae	Ind.	PN	Bekele, 2007
30	<i>Erythrina fusca</i>	Coral bean	Fabaceae	Exotic, Invasive	PN	Feinsinger and Swarm, 1978
31	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony	Asteraceae	Exotic	PN	Hartmann, 1999; Mesquita <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Karunamoorthi <i>et al.</i> , 2009
32	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Gravel root	Asteraceae	Exotic	PN	Pryces- Jones, 1942; Hartmann, 1999; Karunamoorthi <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Mesquita <i>et al.</i> , 2010
33	<i>Euphorbia cotinifolia</i> *	Smoke tree spurge	Euphorbiaceae	Exotic	PN	Getachew, 2012; Pryces-Jones, 1942
34	<i>Euphorbia geniculata</i> *	Wild poinsettia	Euphorbiaceae	Exotic	PN	Pryces-Jones, 1942; Chisholm, 1911
35	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> *	Yellow Jessamine	Loganiaceae	Ind.	PN	Eckert, 1946; Pryce-Jones, 1944

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36	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	Asteraceae	Ind.	PN	Pryce-Joxes, 1944
37	<i>Justicia shimperiana</i>	-----	Acanthaceae	Ind., invasive	PN	Chisholm, 1911; Nuru, 1996; Tesfaye, 2014
38	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> * &	Mountain Laurel	Ericaceae	Exotic	PN	Mussen, 1979; Eckert, 1946; Tesfaye, 2014
39	<i>Lasiosiphon eriocephalus</i>	-----	Thymelacaeaceae	No evidence	N	Chaubal & Deodikar, 1963
40	<i>Lathraea clandestine</i> @ ammonia; high p	Purple toothwort	Orchidaceae	Exotic, Invasive	PN	Ellenhorn <i>et al.</i> , 2004
41	<i>Ledum palustre</i> @& <i>glycoside</i>	-----	Ericaceae	Ind.	PN	Emrich ,1991
42	<i>Liriodendron tulipiferum</i> @ Non protein amino acids	-----	Magnoliaceae	Ind.	PN	Baker and Baker, 1975
43	<i>Lupaninus mutabilis</i>	Lubin bean	Fabaceae	Exotic	PN	Arnold <i>et al.</i> , 2014
44	<i>Lupinus perennis</i> L.	Lubin	Fabaceae	Exotic	PN	Emrich, 1991; Kordan <i>et al.</i> ,2012
45	<i>Mimulus moschatus</i> @ alkaloid	-----	Scrophulariaceae	Ind.	PN	Baker and Baker, 1975
46	<i>Nerium Oleander</i>	Pink oleander	Apocynaceae	Exotic& Invasive	PN	Ekpri, 2018
47	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> @ Alkaloid	Common tobacco	Solonaceae	Exotic	PN	Detzel and Wink, 1993
48	<i>Ochroma lagopus</i> *	Balsa tree	Malvaceae	Exotic	PN	Palmer-Jones <i>et al.</i> , 1947; Paula <i>et al.</i> , 1997
49	<i>Paullina australis</i> &	-----	Sapindaceae	Exotic	PN	Jaeger, 1961
50	<i>Pieris japonica</i> &	Japanese Andromeda	Ericaceae	Ind.	PN	Smith,1978; Bekele, 2007; Robinson, 2015
51	<i>Piptadenia stipulacea</i>	Piptadenia	Fabaceae	Exotic, Invasive	PN	Mesquita <i>et al.</i> ,2010
52	<i>Prunus amygdalus</i>	Almond tree	Rosaceae	Exotic	PN	Wright <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Tiedeken <i>et al.</i> , 2014; Singaravelan <i>et al.</i> , 2005
53	<i>Ranunculus multifidus</i>	Africa butter cup	Ranunculaceae	Ind.	PN	Getahun <i>et al.</i> , 1976; Bergstrom <i>et al.</i> ,1995; Ameri, 1998; Kempf <i>et al.</i> , 2010
54	<i>Rhododendron flavum</i> * &	Azalea pontica	Ericaeae	Exotic	PN	Jaeger, 1961; Jansen <i>et al.</i> , 2012
55	<i>Rhododendron luteum</i> *	Azalea pontica	Ericaeae	Exotic	PN	Jaeger,1961; Jansen <i>et al.</i> , 2012

56	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> @& Alkaloids	Rhododendron	Ericaceae	Exotic, Invasive	PN	Wright <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Jaeger, 1961; Jansen <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Tiedeken <i>et al.</i> , 2016; Treza, 2011; Baker and Baker, 1975; Skinner, 2019
57	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Costar bean	Euphorbiaceae	Ind.	PN	Bandara <i>et al.</i> , 2010
58	<i>Senecio vernali</i>	Eastern groundsel	Asteraceae	No evidence	PN	Renhard <i>et al.</i> , 2009
59	<i>Sinningia incarnate</i>	-----	Gesneriaceae	Ind.	N	Emrich, 1991
60	<i>Sobralia violacea</i>	Sobralia	Orchidaceae	Ind., Invasive	PN	Leendert <i>et al.</i> , 1966; Cingel, 2001
61	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> *	Black night shade	Solanaceae	Ind., invasive	PN	Eckert, 1946; Mussen, 1979
62	<i>Sophora microphylla</i> *	Weeping Kowhai	Fabaceae	Exotic	PN	Clinch <i>et al.</i> , 1972
63	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	African tulip tree	Bignoniaceae	Exotic	PN	Palmer-Jones <i>et al.</i> , 1947
64	<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>	Yellow oleander	Apocynaceae	Exotic, Invasive	N	Ekpri M, 2018; Bandara <i>et al.</i> , 2010
65	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> *	Large leaved lime	Tiliaceae	Exotic	PN	Butler, 1943
66	<i>Toxicoscordion paniculatum</i>	Foothill death camas	Melanthiaceae	Exotic	PN	Cane, 2018
67	<i>Veratrum californicum</i> *	Corn lily	Liliaceae	Ind.	PN	Eckert, 1946; Mussen, 1979; Vansell and Watkins, 1933
68	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Lily of the Nile	Araceae	Ind.	PN	Plants.ces.ncsu.edu., 2019
69	<i>Zygadenus cenesosus</i> *	Meadow death camas	Melanthiaceae	Exotic	PN	Eckert, 1946; Mussen, 1979

**Key:** Plants with known secondary metabolite compounds against bees (@), Poisonous plants to bees (\*), poisonous honey bee plants to humans (&), Indigenous (Ind.), Both pollen and nectar (PN), Mainly nectar source (MN), Source of Poison (SP)



According to Croaker *et al.* (2016), the pollen, nectar and sap of honeydew of *Abies alba*, *Castanea sativa*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Fagus silvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Betula alba*, *Acer platanoides*, *Viscum alba*, *Sophora japonica*, *Tilia platyphylla*, *Tilia tomentosa*, *Tilia cordata*, *Salix alba*, *Prunus amygdalus*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Citruslemon* and *Verbena officinalis* are medicinal honey bee plants.

Furthermore, *Dhatoda vasica*, *Lantana camera*, *Sesamum indicum*, *Vitex negundo* and *Tridax procumbens* are important honey floral species. *Azadirachta indica*, *Citrus limon* Linn and *Citrus aurantifolia* L. are recommended as medicinal honey bee plants (Harugade *et al.*, 2016). Lemon Balm is definitely a favorite of the bees. The leaves are antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antiviral, sedative and aromatic properties and used to treat many conditions (Barczewski, 2015).

### METHODS

Data on the topic were gathered from journals, published books, and different electronic databases. We searched ample databases to identify and get appropriate studies published in Web of Science, ProQuest, Google Scholar, PubMed, Science Direct, Scopus, Medline plus, and others using titles related to WEPs in Ethiopia. We removed gray literature of unpublished, duplicated articles and that did not go ahead with our title. We screened full text of articles that were eligible for locally available poisonous, use full and medicinal honey bee plant species in Ethiopia. The data obtained were explained with descriptive way.

### DISCUSSION

#### Diversity of poisonous Plants

Varied agro-climatic zones and seasons of Ethiopia created a diversified honey bee plant ecology that makes it among the principal honey producers in Africa. It is obvious as honey bees usually visit variety of flowers including poisonous plant species. Hence, for better bee colony life, reproduction and assured nutrition for human health, there must have sufficient supply of both nectar and pollen from useful and medicinal honey bee plants. This in turn needs to keep away the hive colony from poisonous plant species when in bloom.

Fifty nine poisonous honey bee plant species cited by different authors are laid down to 33 families. Most of the species were belongs to Ericaceae (7), Solanaceae (6) and Fabaceae (6). Ranunculaceae and Solonaceae represented with 5 species each.

Acanthaceae, Apiaceae, Araceae, Asparagaceae, Campanulaceae, Caprifoliaceae, Corynocarpaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Cyrilliceae, Gesneriaceae, Liliaceae, Loganiaceae, Magnoliaceae, Malvaceae, Melanthiaceae, Meliaceae, Melianthaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Theaceae, Thymelacaeaceae and Tiliaceae were recorded with one species each.

Most of them exist as exotic (37), Native (26), no evidence for their availability (5) and one species not found at all in the country. *Erythrina fusca*, *Thevetia peruviana* etc. are invasive species while others are widely cultivated as food and ornamental plants in some high lands of Ethiopia (*Lupinus perennis* and *L.albus* L.).

*Euphorbia heterophylla*, *Lupinus perennis*, *Lupin albus* L, *Brugmansia aurea*, *Euphorbia cotinifolia*, *Nerium oleander*, *Delphinium elatum* and *Asclepias syriaca* L are mainly cultivated here in our country as an Ornamental plant around Hotels, Botanical gardens, Campus, Houses and road sides. Few of them are Invasive and parasitic plants (*Lathraea clandestine* where it parasites the root of various plants especially legumes, *Cuscuta* species like *Cuscuta abyssinica* A. Rich, *Cuscuta australis* and *Cuscuta acuta* Engelm. etc.

*Datura stramonium* (Deodikar *etal.*, 1958; Chisholm, 1911; Edwards Sue, 1976), *Croton macrostachyus* (Chisholm, 1911), Bog Rosemary, *Nerium Oleander* (Ekpri, 2018), *Arbutus unendo* (Sanna, 1931), *Azadirachta indica* (Karunamoorthi *et al.*, 2009), *Lantana camara* (Ekpri, 2018), and *Tilia platyphyllas* (Boral *et al.*, 2004) are categorized as poisonous honey bee plants. *Citrus* species nectar at high

concentration is known toxic to bees (Nathans, 1984; Mustard *et al.*, 2012; Wright *et al.*, 2013). However, other studies indicate that *Datura stramonium*, *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Nerium oleander* and *Lantana camara* etc. had medicinal activity in small amount. The strawberry tree and lime tree species (Harugade, 2016; Croaker, 2016) are observed as medicinal honey bee plants too.

## CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

### Conclusion

A large body of research findings demonstrates the negative impacts of poisonous bee plants on the bee colony, wax production and human nutrition sector. The nutritional content of honey bee plants pollen and nectar is important to conserve recommended medicinal honey bee plants. To increase efficacy in bee colony conservation, healthy honey production, enhance their diversity and abundances, it is a must to explore the local poisonous, useful and medicinal honey bee plants in Ethiopia. In the same way, the impact of nutritional status as a cumulative process across several regions of the country should be done.

This review article thus emphasizes on the preliminary survey of poisonous, useful and medicinal bee plants in Ethiopia. This endeavored to bring it into a single manuscript by compressing all research findings across the globe and Ethiopia as much as possible. This in turn creates awareness to the bee keepers and other stakeholders about their colony health as same as in getting assured food nutrition from honey in their day to day diet.

### Future perspectives

Researchers should be motivated to carry in depth experimental based nutritional analysis on the impact of poisonous and medicinal bee plants to the health of bee species and humans as well. This review article will also enhance researchers to fill the major gaps in knowledge of exploring local poisonous, useful and medicinal honey bee plants of the country.

There is a need to create awareness to bee keepers at local, regional, federal level and non-Governmental stakeholders on poisonous, use full, and medicinal honey bee plants. Medicinal and use full honey bee plants need to be raised in hedge rows of agriculture areas, buffer zones of forests, road sides etc. Honey bee keepers should grow the recommended Use-full and medicinal honey bee flora around their hives.

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