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Influence of indigenous bee attractants on honey bee visitation and yield parameters of Niger

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ABSTRACT : In the present investigation Two pheromone based attractant namely Citral Z, Citral E and four plant based lures like fruit extract of *Fagara budrunga*, leaf extract of *Swetia densifolia* , tuberose scented water and cinnamon leaf extract have been evaluated along with a commercial queen mandibular pheromone based attractant namely Fruit boost. After first spraying of bee attractants, the Fruit boost (16.62 bees/10 flowers/5 minute) was found superior in attracting maximum number of bees. Indigenous attractants Citral Z and Citral E were the next superior enticing 12.32 to 12.20 bees/10 flowers/5 minutes. The plant based attractants viz, *S. densifolia*, Cinnomon leaf extract, *F. budrunga* and tuberose floral scented water were on par with each other and attracted more number of bees (11.53 to 9.75 bees /10 flowers/5 minute) followed by control plot (5.39 bees /10 flowers/5 minute). Similar results were found after second application of bee attractants with indigenous pheromone based attractants CitralE and Citral Z performing next best to Fruit boost in enticing bees followed by *F. budrunga*, Tuberose floral scented water and *S. densifolia*.

Key Words : Honey bee, niger, attractants.