

more aggressive to some people than to others; but, as all bee-masters know, it is very seldom that they will sting if certain precautions are taken. When moving about among the hives you should never stand immediately in front of a hive, nor hit at the bees when they circle round your head. Occasionally, however, it may be necessary to kill a very persistent or irritated bee. You can generally tell by the note emitted when a bee is angry; but anger among bees, as with human beings, must always be regarded with pity, particularly so in the case of bees, because their excitement is only over-zeal in protecting the home against a supposed enemy. The sting itself is a rather complicated organ consisting of barb-tipped darts which run down through a sheath and are controlled by levers. The venom is produced in a poison-gland and is stored in a special sac till required. Morphologically, the sting is composed of six separate parts. When a bee stings, the sting remains in the wound by reason of the barbs and the insect soon dies from the mutilation. In this bees differ from wasps, which have smoother stings and can use them repeatedly. The changes in the different stages of the Hymenoptera are what is known as "complete," that is, the larva is very or *completely* different from the pupa, and the pupa from the perfect insect, and, notwithstanding that these insects show to the greatest degree what we call intelligence and live the most specialized or highest kind of life, the young are more helpless and dependent on their parents for food and safety than in any other class of insects. With the Solitary wasps and bees a supply of food is stored in the cell with the egg, so that the young grub on hatching finds all it requires close at hand. With the Social wasps and bees, and all the ants, the workers feed the young all the time until they are full grown.

The Hymenoptera constitute an enormous order embracing in North America upwards of 8,000 species and include insects of most diverse habits and structure. Bees, wasps and ants are among the best known representatives of the order; but here we also find the large and important families of parasitic ichneumon flies, the small but most useful Chalcids and also many gall flies and sawflies.

A point of some interest to those who do not study insects, is the difference between wasps and bees. In general appearance these may, as a rule, be readily distinguished; but their habits are also quite different. All bees feed upon nectar and pollen, while wasps feed upon animal food, particularly other insects. They are also, it is true, very fond of sweet substances, such as the juice of fruits, and will even steal honey from bees;