

Ecological Characteristics of Korean Native Bumblebee,
Bombus hypocrita saporicensis

Hyung Joo Yoon, Sang Beom Lee, Mi Ae Kim, Won Tae Kim and Sang Mi Han

Department of Agricultural Biology, The National Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology, RDA, Suwon 441-100, Korea

The post-hibernated queens of Korean native bumblebee, *Bombus hypocrita saporicensis* were collected in Jeong-Sun, Korea in the spring of 2004 to investigate their ecological characteristics and reared under the laboratory conditions; 27°C, 65% R.H. and darkness. The average weight of 80 queens collected was 0.64 ± 0.11 g and 0.6g class was most abundant (49.4%) among eight weight classes. The rates of colony initiation, colony foundation and progeny-queen production were 76.3%, 60.0% and 42.5%, respectively. The durations up to colony initiation and colony foundation were 12.0 ± 6.7 days and 49.3 ± 2.4 days, respectively. The duration up to first worker, male and queen emergence were 22.2 ± 3.0 , 63.4 ± 6.5 , 63.5 ± 8.7 , respectively. The number of progenies was 108.5 ± 26.0 workers, 186.7 ± 70.7 males and 39.1 ± 30.3 queens. The longevity of colony founded queen was 90.2 ± 19.9 days whereas that of non-colonized queen was 35.9 ± 13.1 days. Copulation time was 29.0 ± 7.1 min. The number of eggs per egg cell laid new queen was 8.8 ± 2.9 grains. An egg shaped as banana and size was 1.12 ± 0.10 mm in a width, 3.54 ± 0.16 mm in a length and 2.26 ± 0.34 mg in a weight.