

BEE COLONY NEAR SKUKUZA LIBRARY

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Attached are photos of bee colony taken from Skukuza Library. What interesting about this colony is that it has no hive. This was supposed to make it vulnerable to its enemies and climatic conditions but it seems unaffected. The hive has



many advantages for bees. It enhances the security of the colony because bees only have to seal points which can be used as entry by its enemies (e.g. ants for honey or birds for adult/juveniles) with wax along the hive. In this way resources

needed for security is reduced to the entry of the hive. The other advantage of having a hive is that it reduces the costs for thermal regulation. It serves as an insulator that helps bees to keep the colony in required temperature for the survival of their immature stages and comb, wax and honey from melting. This means that the colony at Skukuza library has to use more resources for security and thermal regulation. What fascinating is that it managed to survive such challenges without the hive (or not even a membrane that some colonies use). I am told that it has been in



that place for about four months. One will be interested to see if it will also survive the winter season as it did with summer.