

And God Created.....Death by Bee Baking

Among the world of insects there are some many unique methods of defense that God has created for them. Many of those defense systems are simple and straight forward. Others are complex and very elaborate. Among those insects that have a very complex and well designed defense system is the Japanese Honeybee.

The Japanese Honeybee is very similar to our common honeybees. It is a very active insect with a very complex social behavior and some amazing abilities that God has designed into them. But, one way that this honeybee is very different in how it defends itself from one of its most potent predators, the Giant Japanese Hornet. To understand how the honeybee protects itself from the hornet we need to look into how the hornet lives.

The giant hornet is a large, vicious predator. It is about 3 times the size of a honeybee and up to 20 times the weight. The hornets eat insects. The most normal prey for the hornet is slow moving insects such as the gold beetle and large caterpillars. But, as these food sources run out at the end of the year and as the hornets need to reach maximum size to survive winter, they turn to other less vulnerable food sources, such as the honeybee. As the hornets begin to send out scouts to locate food sources they need to leave markers where the hive can find the food, since they do not have the waggle dance as the honeybee does. When a scout finds a hive or honeybees it will mark the hive with a very strong chemical called a pheromone. This chemical will then serve as the signal beacon for the remainder of the hornets to allow them to raid the bee hive. But the honeybees do not take being targeted for death lying down because they also can smell the pheromone let's look at how.

Since a single hornet can kill up to 40 bees a minute with its powerful jaws, so a group of 20 hornets can wipe out an entire colony of 30,000 bees in about three hours so the bees take it very seriously, so the honeybees get everything ready they can to fight off the danger.

When the pheromones are detected the honeybees send out about 100 guard cells to get ready for the attack to come. As the hornets approach, the guards rush back into the hive. The hornets then rush inward where they find an entire hive the thousands of worker bees lying in ambush. The workers then swarm the hornets with up to 500 bees to each hornet producing a dense ball, since their stings have no effect on the hornets another plan must be available, and God has given them one. When the hornet has been surrounded by the bees begin to vibrate their wing muscles inside their thoraxes, this in turn raise their body temperature. This extra body heat causes the temperature inside the hornet covered bee ball to rise to 116 degrees. This does not hurt the honeybees as they can withstand temperatures up to 122 degrees, but a hornet can only tolerate 114 degrees. So after baking for fifteen minutes in the bee covered ball the hornet dies. If the bees (which don't eat hornets) succeed in killing the first "recruiter" hornets, they starve off a swarming attack. If they fail, the bees abandon their nest and stream off into a new one.

Evolutionists who examine this defensive ability call it “an excellent example of prey-predator coevolution,” Biologists Masato Ono of Tokyo says “This predaceous pressure has led to the evolution of an effective defensive strategy in the Japanese honeybee.”

These scientists accept that by some as yet unexplained amazing mechanism called natural selection it is possible for such a complex defensive strategy to come about. The twist, convolutions and pure blind luck that they must believe in, is immense. How much simpler and more logical is the belief that all powerful God created these abilities instantly when He spoke them into existence. Let us never doubt His power and majesty.