

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**MELISSOPALYNOLOGICAL STUDY ON LITCHI HONEY COLLECTED BY
APIS MELLIFERA FROM MALDA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**

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Abstract: Malda district of West Bengal has global fame for producing delicious fruits like mango, litchi, etc. *Melissopalynological analyses of litchi honey samples (Apis mellifera) collected from four top litchi honey producing rural areas of Malda district were conducted in April-May, 2022. All the four honey samples (LH 1 - LH 4) were found to be unifloral in nature with 73-85% contribution of Litchi chinensis as the predominant pollen. In addition to Litchi chinensis pollen, 14 other pollen types were recorded with 1- 6% contribution to total palynoflora. These members were Apiaceae, Areca catechu, Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Cassia sp., Chenopodiaceae, Cocos nucifera, Fabaceae, Malvaceae, Mangifera indica, Parthenium hysterophorus, Psidium guajava and Solanaceae. The study indicates to potential of Litchi chinensis as the major nectar producing plant in its flowering season for Apis mellifera in Malda district of West Bengal.*

Key words: Melissopalynological study, litchi honey, Malda district, West Bengal.

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