

Stingless Bees

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Stingless Bees Latest News

Amazonian stingless bees have become the first insect in the world to be granted legal rights, after two municipalities — Satipo and Nauta — in Peru passed an ordinance earlier this month.

About Stingless Bees

- **Stingless Bees** are a class of bees which either do not have stingers or have stingers that cannot cause much pain.
- Common genera of stingless bees: **Austroplebeia, Melipona, and Tetragonula**
- They do possess stingers, but they are too small to be useful in defense. Instead of stinging, stingless bees **use their mandibles to bite their attackers.**
- Stingless bees are among the **planet's oldest pollinators**, with a remarkable concentration of species in the Amazon rainforest.
- **Distribution:** They are found in **tropical regions across the world**, and about half of the 500 known species live in the Amazon.

- **Africa, Australia, Southeast Asia**, and parts of the Americas are the main areas where the stingless bee is found.
- **In India**, these bees are reported primarily **from the northeastern, eastern, and southern Indian States**.
- **Benefits:** Stingless bees can be **used for pollination** without fear of being stung. They are known for **their popular medicinal** honey and pollination potential.
- **Threats:** Deforestation has reduced nesting sites, while **pesticide use, climate change** and competition from invasive honeybees have further **weakened populations**.

Source: IE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/stingless-bees/>

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