



INTRODUCTION

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The venom apparatus of the honeybee, like that of many social insects, has a prime role of defence to the colony and stinging behavior is most commonly observed in the proximity of the hive or nest. The use of bee venom for medicinal purposes is known to be a very old practice, especially for rheumatism and arthritis. For example, Hypocrites, the father of medicine (400 B.C.) has mentioned about bee sting therapy used for arthritis. At present, bee venom therapy (epitoxon) is used by naturopaths for the treatment of such afflictions as rheumatoid arthritis and gout, experimental treatment of multiple sclerosis and AIDS is under examination. It is also used in immunotherapy as a means for decreasing the severity of allergic reactions in individual who are hypersensitive to bee stings.

The method of bee venom extraction by exposing the bees to electrical shock is a recent practice. Markovic and Molner, 1954 were the first to submit bees to electric shock to obtain their venom. Bees returning to their hive were caught between two revolving cylinders where they were squeezed and shocked to obtain their venom.

In Egypt limited or little amount of research has been done in this concern in the Egyptian apiaries.

In this work some different venom collection devices are examined under the Egyptian conditions. The present new devices that are being proposed are meant. To improve the capacity of venom collection and provide safety for the operators and minimize bee loss in hives designated to this task. Local research facilities the National project for honeybee pests control were used to evaluate these devices.