Collection Procedure

1. Separately collect 12-100 worker bees from 1-4 colonies. Bees should be collected from one of the outer frames from inside the hive. Bees collected from each colony must be kept separate from the workers from other colonies.

2. Place bees at 4°C (refrigerator temperature) approximately 30 minutes to immobilize them. This will make the bees easier to count. More time may be required depending on the number of individuals collected. (Do not freeze as this will kill the bees leading to deterioration of the DNA in their guts.)

3. Once bees are immobile, place 10-20 from each colony into one of the provided 50ml conical tubes (each tube contains 30ml of 95% ethanol). Two tubes have been provided for each colony. Ensure that the caps of each tube are tightened snugly. The level of the bees should be under 1/3 of the level of the ethanol.

4. For each tube, fill out collection data on provided “Bee Data Worksheet”. A code on each tube corresponds with a matching code on the worksheet.

http://www.yale.edu/moran/bees.html
5. Place conical tubes securely into provided Styrofoam rack.

6. Place rack with tubes into provided plastic bag with absorbent material (provided cotton or vermiculite) and ensure that bag is sealed.

7. Place sealed bag and tubes back into shipping box with completed “Bee Data Worksheet” and included packing materials.

8. Seal shipping box with appropriate tape and attach enclosed prepaid shipping label and ensure box pick up by United States Postal Service.

Thank you for participating in the Bee Microbiome Project

Kit Contents

- Collection procedure
- 8 x 50 ml collection tubes with unique labels (contain 30 ml 95% ethanol each)
- Styrofoam stand and containment bag
- “Bee Data Worksheet” with corresponding unique labels
- Return shipping label

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