

NATURE . WILDLIFE

# SECRETS OF THE HIVE

50' (ENG, GER)



**Honeybees are in a crisis: around the world bee populations have suffered dramatic losses over the last decades. Loyal companions in the production of our crops for centuries, the little insects seem to have been overburdened. However, their work is crucial for our survival, as a third of what we eat is pollinated by bees.**

The reasons for the mysterious bee die-offs are unclear. This leads scientists to reflect on possible scenarios of who will pollinate our crops in the future. One way out of the pollination crisis could be by beating the deadly varroa mite, a parasitic insect specialising in sucking the blood of bees and bee larvae. Another solution might be presented by the 'killer bees', a honeybee subspecies of the Africanized bee, which is resilient to the mites – but dangerous to men and other bees alike. Can the killer bees be tamed?

Around the world, there also exists a rich and diverse variety of native wild bees, most of which have been ignored until today. Will one of them take over? The time has come to look closely at all the bees out there and understand the biology of each species.



Original Title: Bienen - eine Welt im Wandel  
 Year: 2014  
 Produced by: Terra Mater Factual Studios, taglicht media, Smithsonian Channel