

Attack of the Asian Giant Hornets

By Jensen Byrd

Bzzz z buzz! The buzzing is overwhelming. As a Japanese honeybee, you would think I was used to it by now. Well I'm not, okay? I've only lived for two weeks.

To get away from the noisy hive, I fly out to the summer breeze. "Ahhh it's such a nice day to be out, the sun is shining, the birds are singing and the flowers are blooming."

"Timmy, are you talking to yourself?" says another bee.

"Mind your own beeswax, Arthur... literally," I say.

"Oh... okay," says Arthur and flies away.

As I was saying it's a—**KZZZzzzz**

Wait! What was that noise? Oh no, I see a giant Asian hornet nest about 150 centimetres away.

That's not good. They could wipe out my entire colony. I need to warn my colony right away!

As I quickly head (fly) to the hive, I see that I'm too late! There are two giant hornets covered in bees at the hive. (Fact: If a group of honeybees clamp themselves around an Asian giant hornet, they can heat it up until it dies.)

I'm about to hop on one of the hornets, but suddenly all the bees go swarming off because the hornet is already lying warm on the ground, not moving. I run over to see that the other hornet is

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still covered in bees, crashing and bashing around trying to get the bees off, and sadly it's succeeding. I see multiple squashed or bitten honeybees on the ground.

"Well at least there's only two of them," I say to myself. But I spoke too soon... a whole swarm of hornets are coming towards our hive at high speed! And they don't look like they're here to party.

Then Arthur comes flying past at speed and says "The hornet scouts must have already marked our hive with pheromones!" (Fact: Pheromones are a chemical that insects spray around to alert, lead or change the behaviour of others of their species.)

"Yeah... so what are we we going to do exactly?" I ask.

"Well since if we try to fight them we're not going to win, I say we hide."

"Good point," I say. So we both fly behind a chunk of honeycomb.

"Mmm thith honeycomb isth delithith!" says Arthur with a mouthful.

"ARTHUR. Stop eating the honeycomb right now, we're meant to be saving it for later," I say firmly.

"Awww," says Arthur.

"Shhhhhhhh," I say to him, just as a chunk of bee goes sailing over our abdomens.

"Um okayy," whispers Arthur. But then a hornet finds us *gulp* with its stinger raised and its jaws ready...

I jump up and sting it in the face! I pull my stinger out of the hornet... but my stinger is still lodged into it, I just ripped out my stinger!!! As I look out of the hive I see a huge bird called a honey buzzard land on top of the hive. (Fact: Honey buzzards are Asian giant hornets worst enemies.) It

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frightens all of the hornets, which sends them on a frenzy flying away from the hive. The honey buzzard follows them away and then my vision clouds and I faint...

I wake up in a bed of honey. "Where am I?" I say faintly.

Then I sit bolt upright. I remember!

"Hooray, he's awake!!!" a bunch of bees say including Arthur.

"What?" I say.

"You're the first bee to survive without a stinger!" says Arthur.

"Really?" I ask.

"Totally," he says.

So I look down at my abdomen... My stinger's missing.

"Niiiiice," I say.

So yeah, it's nice to break a world record once in a while. I'm kind of... well known now that

I've... you know.

And there you have it! The story of the first honeybee to survive without a stinger!