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Floral Choices, Parasites and Micro-organisms in Natural Populations of Bumblebees (Apidae: Hymenoptera) in Ankara Province

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**Abstract:** In this study, the flower choices of different bumblebee species in Ankara province regarding their associations among various parasites and micro-organisms were determined. A total of 21 different species of the genera *Bombus* Latreille and *Psithyrus* Lepeletier were examined. The motile hypopus of the mite species *Acarus farris* (Oudemans, 1905) (Acaridae) was found to be phoretic on *Bombus* (*Bombus*) *terrestris*, *Megabombus* (*Megabombus*) *argillaceus*, *Megabombus* (*Thoracobombus*) *zonatus* and *Pyrobombus* (*Sibiricobombus*) *niveatus* queens. *Nosema bombi* was also determined to be an internal parasite of *B. terrestris*. Finally, a nematode species belonging to the family Allantonematidae (Tylenchida) was isolated from *Megabombus* (*Thoracobombus*) *sylvarum citrinofasciatus*. The flower choices of the discussed *Bombus* and *Psithyrus* species were examined by using diversity and richness indices. It was observed that *Anchusa leptophylla*, *Onopordum anatolicum*, *Echium italicum*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Galega officinalis* and *Astragalus* sp. were the most preferred plant species of bumblebees in Ankara province.

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