PROJECT TITLE: Learning flights and flower preferences in bees

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Project keywords: Insects, behaviour, flower choices, cognition, pollination

Bees learn and develop individual preferences for flowers

Using artificial and natural flowers we can dissect what and how bees learn

Proposed start date: 05/07/2021

Project description

In this project you have the opportunity to learn more about the sensory and cognitive ecology of bumblebees [1, 2], one of the most important group of wild pollinators of flowering plants, and to join an enthusiastic group of bee researcher to study the intricate facets of one of the most fascinating ecological partnerships. You will develop and test a specific experimental hypothesis about how bees learn and how they choose flowers, receive training in experimental techniques to track the movement and choices of individual bees under ecologically relevant conditions, and collect and analyse your own data. The Bee Lab at the Centre for Research in Animal Behaviour is located at the Streatham campus of the University of Exeter, in Exeter, Devon.

Candidate requirements

We look for a candidate who is enthusiastic in learning about bees, open to discuss ideas and questions, and who is keen to develop their experimental skills but also advance their knowledge of analysis and software skills in analysing large data sets.

Background reading and references
