

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF INSECTS

2004

May

Tuesday

25

Wk-22 146-220

Introduction:-

'Social behaviour' is a broad spectrum word which includes any type of behaviour in which two or more individuals of the same species are involved. Insects of a given species that live together in organized groups or colonies are known as social insects. Majority of insects are solitary although they may be gregarious forming temporary populations. Temporary associations can be seen among lady beetles, caterpillars, locusts and mayflies. Since gregariousness is only a temporary association, it does not involve any intimate association between the parents and offsprings.

CHARACTERISTICS FEATURES OF SOCIAL INSECTS :-

- ① The insect societies are characterized by a large population.
- ② Members of the colony show mutual cooperation.
- ③ Existence of co-operative brood care and an overlap of generations.

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Appointments

2004

May ④ Presence of polymorphism.

2004

Wednesday ⑤ Exchange of food between
one insect and the other.

M-22 147-218

It is known as trophallaxis.

Elaborate nests are constructed
in all the insects. The nests of
termites measure 9-10 feet.

The young ones are fed till they
reach their adulthood, as in
ants, bees and termites.