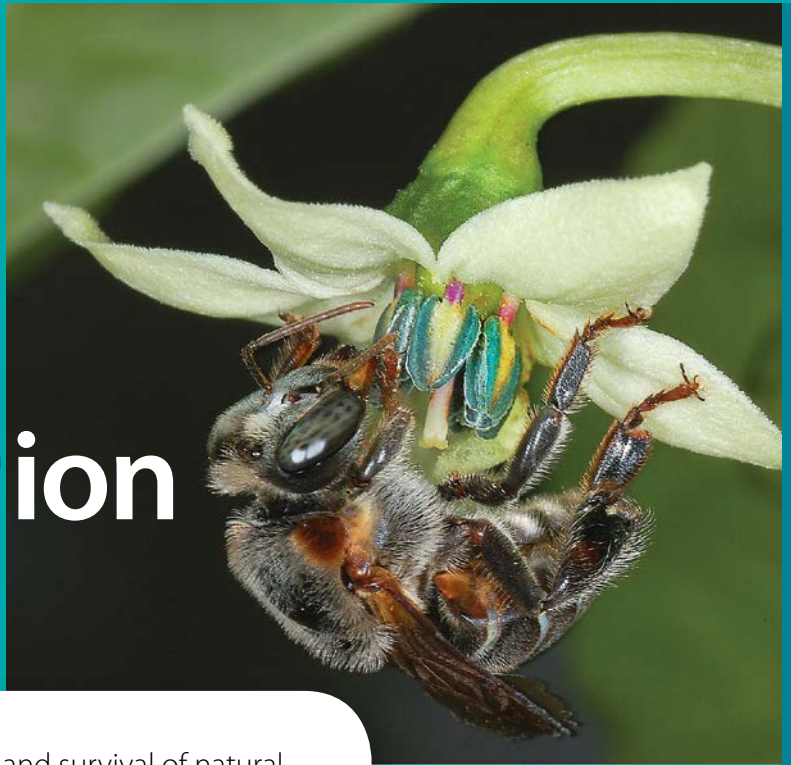


# Bees and Pollination



**Pollination is crucial** for the health and survival of natural plant communities, and is mega-important for agricultural production.

Pollination **moves pollen** from the male to the female part of a flower, where it fertilises the plant's ovules, allowing seed production.

The European honey bee is the most important managed pollinator, but **wild bees and other insects** are often more valuable for transferring pollen. A diversity of bees is optimal for maximum crop yield.

Honey bees and wild bees face the **threats of habitat loss**, climate change, pesticide use and the spread of their natural enemies, so we need to manage them prudently.

We can **act now to help pollinators** by managing our landscapes, providing nest sites, and taking care when using pesticides.

We can also **propagate** certain pollinator species to boost their populations.

The health of bees in our natural ecosystems and on farms is currently the subject of much concern. Furthermore, there are increasing calls to diversify our crop pollinators and to manage native bees to promote food production.

An Amazonian stingless bee (*Melipona fasciculata*) visiting a capsicum flower.

IMAGE **GIORGIO VENTURIERI**