





About Our Cover

On our cover this month are honeybees, *Apis mellifera*, an example of the coevolution of pollinators and angiosperms. The homemade individual cells are made by special wax glands of the infertile female workers. The cells contain different stages of the life cycle, including the rice-grain-sized eggs and various sizes of white larvae. The younger workers clean and maintain the hive, and the bees shown here are most likely nurse bees taking care of the larvae and queen. After the larva is 1 week old the cell is sealed up, and in another 7 days an adult bee emerges. The job of the oldest workers is to guard the hive and forage for nectar and pollen. The drone honeybees are male bees of the colony that are haploid and are descended only from their mother. In the lower left, two workers are sharing digested nectar that will be used to feed the young or stored and dehydrated within the honeycomb to form honey for later use. This image, taken by Rebecca Pizzino in her backyard in suburban Philadelphia with a Cannon PowerShot G11 at focal length 13.76, F 4 at 1/200 sec, was awarded third prize in last year's *ABT* cover photo contest. Becky is an Upper School Science Teacher at Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, PA 19034. E-mail: rebecca.pizzino@germantownacademy.org.

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