

1 **Effects of floral symmetry and orientation on the consistency of pollinator's entry angle**

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24 **Abstract**

25 Since the publication of Sprengel's (1793) observations, it has been considered that flowers with zygomorphic  
26 (or bilaterally symmetrical) corollas evolved to restrict the movement of pollinators into the flower by limiting  
27 the pollinator's direction of approach. However, little empirical support has been accumulated so far, except  
28 Culbert and Forrest (2016) who found that zygomorphy reduced variance in pollinator's flower entry angle. Our  
29 aim was to build on this work and observe whether floral symmetry or orientation had an effect on pollinator  
30 entry angle in a laboratory experiment using bumble bees, *Bombus ignitus*. Using nine different combinations of  
31 artificial flowers created from three symmetry types (radial, bilateral and disymmetrical) and three orientation  
32 types (upward, horizontal and downward), we tested the effects of these two floral aspects on the consistency of  
33 bee's entry angle. Our results show that horizontal orientation significantly reduced the variance in entry angle,  
34 while symmetry had little effect. We also found no significant interactions between angle and symmetry in their  
35 effect on entry angle. Thus, our results suggest that horizontal orientation forces the bees to orient themselves  
36 relative to gravity rather than the corolla and stabilizes their flower entry. This stabilizing effect may have been  
37 mistaken for the effect of zygomorphic corolla as it is presented horizontally in most species. Consequently, we  
38 suggest that the evolution of horizontal orientation preceded that of zygomorphy as indicated by some authors,  
39 and that the reason behind the evolution of zygomorphy should be revisited.

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41 Keywords: approach consistency, artificial flowers, *Bombus*, floral orientation, floral symmetry, pollen  
42 placement

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51 **Declarations**

52 Funding: JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI no.19K06834)

53 Availability of data: Data can be obtained from Nina Jirgal upon request.

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55 **Acknowledgements**

56 We would like to thank Kohei Terada and Yukie Sato for their insightful advice during the development of the  
57 experimental method; Ben Chapman, Rob Sansom, and William Sellers for their critical comments following  
58 assignments related to this experiment which were used in this study and Nathan Muchhala for his helpful  
59 comments and insights on the manuscript. This work was supported by a JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific  
60 Research (KAKENHI no.19K06834) to K.O.

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## 75 **Introduction**

76 Zygomorphy, or bilateral symmetry, in angiosperm flowers is suggested to have evolved independently in  
77 multiple lineages from their ancestral radial form about 50MY after their initial emergence, which coincides  
78 with the emergence of specialised pollinators (Citerne et al. 2010; Hileman 2014). Currently, 130 origins of  
79 zygomorphy have been estimated, while only 69 reversions to actinomorphy, or radial symmetry, have occurred  
80 (Reyes et al. 2016). Its emergence has been recognized as a key innovation as it is seen to be homoplastic in  
81 extant angiosperms and is associated with species diversification (Woźniak and Sicard 2018). Indeed, radially  
82 symmetric lineages comprise of fewer species than their bilaterally symmetric sister lineages (Sargent 2004;  
83 Woźniak and Sicard 2018). Overall, zygomorphic flowers have a higher level of fitness compared to their  
84 actinomorphic counterparts (Gómez et al. 2006).

85         Although there are many proposed hypotheses for the evolution of zygomorphy, they can be divided  
86 into three major groups of from the perspective of benefits for the plant. The first one is that zygomorphy may  
87 increase flower (re)visitation by pollinators through making the flowers easier to perceive, learn or forage.  
88 Because zygomorphic flowers are morphologically more complex than non-zygomorphic ones, pollinators are  
89 likely to be given more visual information on which to base their specific recognition of these flowers (Neal et  
90 al. 1998). For example, zygomorphic flowers have a higher contour density, i.e., the dissected margin of  
91 flowers, compared to actinomorphic ones (Anderson 1977; Dafni and Kevan 1997). Lehrer et al. (1985) have  
92 shown that honeybees tend to scan the contour of flowers in a close range. This may suggest that zygomorphic  
93 flowers exploit scanning behaviour of certain pollinators and help them to reach the floral resources (Dafni and  
94 Kevan 1997). Alternatively, zygomorphic flowers often have elongated lower lips on which pollinators could  
95 land easily (Sprengel 1793). The resultant decrease in landing time may lead to increased return visits by  
96 experienced foragers (Neal et al. 1998).

97         The second group of hypotheses is that the complexity of the corolla restricts the type of pollinators  
98 that could exploit the floral resources. Only a small subset of animals are able to reach the nectar in  
99 zygomorphic flowers due to their complexity (Neal et al. 1998; Zhao et al. 2016; Krishna and Keasar 2018).  
100 This would be advantageous if the complexity acts as a morphological filter that allows only effective  
101 pollinators to extract nectar from the flower and contribute to its pollination (Krishna and Keasar 2018). In  
102 addition, the filtering of pollinators according to their ability to handle flowers is suggested to increase  
103 pollinator fidelity, as specialised pollinators mainly exploit fewer complex flower species rather than visiting

104 many flower species with simple morphologies (Rogriguez-Girones and Santamaría 2016; Krishna and Kaesar  
105 2018). This fidelity of pollinators would benefit flowers in terms of lowering heterospecific pollen transfer  
106 (Krishna and Kaesar 2018).

107         The third hypothesis suggests that a zygomorphic corolla restricts the movement of the insect (Wang et  
108 al. 2014; Ushimaru and Hyodo 2005; Neal et al. 1998), resulting in approaches that are more stable and  
109 predictable in direction (Fenster et al. 2009). Zygomorphy has been linked to a gene that suppresses the growth of  
110 stamen (Rudall and Bateman 2004) and concentrates the reproductive parts of the flower in one location.  
111 Indeed, O'Meara et al (2016) have shown that the diversification of zygomorphy is contingent on the presence  
112 of a corolla and reduction of stamen. The concentration of stamens and stigmas to a narrower area, combined  
113 with the predictable movement of the pollinator, would allow these reproductive parts to make more consistent  
114 contact with the pollinator's body. This consistency would increase the conspecific pollen transfer while  
115 decreasing the heterospecific pollen exchange with pollinator-sharing species (Muchhala and Thomson 2010;  
116 Culbert and Forrest 2016).

117         Here we focus on the third hypothesis, which has often been assumed in studies of floral evolution  
118 (e.g., Sargent 2004) but rarely tested empirically. The effect of corolla shape on pollinator entry angle has been  
119 examined by Culbert and Forrest (2016) in a laboratory experiment using artificial flowers and bumble bees  
120 (*Bombus impatiens*). Using circular (radially symmetric) and rectangular (disymmetric) flowers, they showed  
121 that the approach consistency of bees was higher on disymmetric than on radial flowers. However, disymmetric  
122 flowers are rare in nature and slightly different from zygomorphic (bilaterally symmetric) flowers. In addition,  
123 all the artificial flowers in their experiment were oriented horizontally. While zygomorphic flowers are usually  
124 seen oriented horizontally in nature, radial flowers are commonly oriented in an upward or downward manner.  
125 Therefore, their results may not fully reflect the effect of corolla shape on entry angle consistency in natural  
126 settings. Finally, Fenster et al. (2009) has suggested that the entry angle stabilisation observed in zygomorphic  
127 flowers may be provided by the horizontal orientation in which they are presented, rather than the corolla  
128 symmetry. Thus, it is possible that the effects of floral symmetry were intermingled with those of orientation in  
129 the experiments by Culbert and Forrest (2016).

130         In this study, we aimed to evaluate both the effect of floral symmetry and orientation on the  
131 consistency of pollinator's entry angle. As an extension of the experiment conducted by Culbert and Forrest  
132 (2016), we have used artificial flowers with three symmetry types (actinomorphy, zygomorphy and

133 disymmetric) and oriented them in three ways (upward, horizontal and downward). By testing nine possible  
134 combinations of symmetry and orientation, some of which rarely exist in nature, we tried to dissect and quantify  
135 the effects of two floral features separately.

136

## 137 **Materials and methods**

### 138 *Artificial flowers*

139 We used artificial flowers for the experiments, each consisting of a “corolla” cut from blue drawing paper  
140 (~11.5 cm<sup>2</sup>), and a container for cotton, from which the sucrose solution (“nectar”) can be collected by bees.  
141 Each corolla shape represents one of the three types of floral symmetry: actinomorphy (circular; 38 mm  
142 [diameter]), zygomorphy (triangular; 40 mm [base] x 57.5 mm [height]), and disymmetry (rectangular; 55 mm  
143 [length] x 21 mm [width]). We used artificial flowers with identical appearance for the training and test phases,  
144 the only difference being the configuration of the cotton container (see below).

145         A test flower had a 0.5-mL microcentrifuge tube as a container for a small piece of cotton. This  
146 microcentrifuge tube was embedded into a larger (1.5-mL) microcentrifuge tube using white, odourless clay.  
147 The opening of the smaller tube was at the same level as that of the larger tube. The cotton was inserted into the  
148 smaller tube, and the nectar was added on top of it so that bees could access it easily. The cotton was used as a  
149 fluid reservoir to prevent the nectar from leaking out of the microcentrifuge tube when the flower is not  
150 upwardly presented, while allowing bees to easily access it. On the other hand, a training flower used a 1.5-mL  
151 microcentrifuge tube as the container, into which a dental cotton roll was inserted to prevent the nectar from  
152 leaking out. We chose a larger nectar reservoir for the training flower, so that the nectar would not run out  
153 quickly and the bees would not lose their motivation. We also used six plastic petri dishes as supplementary  
154 feeders during the training phase (two petri dishes per flower shape). Each petri dish had a hole cut into the  
155 middle and a dental cotton was inserted. It absorbed the nectar in the petri dishes and allowed bees to access the  
156 nectar.

157         Twelve flowers were positioned on a grid in a three-by-four pattern, with a 10-cm interval between the  
158 centres of the adjacent flowers. Each was placed in either of the three positions: floor (grid lying flat on the floor  
159 of the cage), wall (grid leaning against the back side of the cage at 90° to the ground), and ceiling (grid hung  
160 upside down from the ceiling with metal hooks). Hereafter, we refer to these positions as “upward”,

161 “horizontal”, and “downward” respectively, to represent how each position determines the flower orientation.  
162 Within each grid, we aligned the corollas so that their symmetry axes all point in the same direction to minimize  
163 the possible effects of variable corolla alignment. For upward and downward presentations, both the longer  
164 symmetry axes of disymmetric flowers and the symmetry axes of zygomorphic flowers were aligned parallel to  
165 the line connecting the nest and the cage. Moreover, the sharpest vertices of zygomorphic flowers were directed  
166 towards the wall opposite to where bees enter the cage. For horizontal presentations, the zygomorphic and  
167 disymmetric flowers were aligned so that an approaching bee could view them as upright triangles or upright  
168 rectangles, respectively (Fig. 1 d,e).

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### 170 Experimental procedures

171 We used workers from two commercial colonies of bumble bees, *Bombus ignitus* Smith, provided by Agrisect,  
172 Ibaraki, Japan. Colonies were maintained in nest boxes. The nest box (one at a time) was connected to a flight  
173 cage measuring 100 x 70 x 70 (H) cm through a transparent box equipped with gates, which allowed for the  
174 controlled entry and exit of individual bees into and out of the cage (Fig. 1). Pollen was supplied *ad lib* every  
175 day, directly into the colony. We used 17 and 18 workers from each colony, respectively.

176 During the training, which was performed before and between the test trials, we allowed the bees to  
177 forage freely in the cage by leaving the entrance open. Each training consisted of two phases: initial training  
178 phase and advanced training phase. During the initial training phase, a single training grid was placed on the  
179 floor of the cage (upward). In the grid, there were four flowers of each symmetry type arranged so that flowers  
180 of the same type were not next to each other. The initial phase was used to encourage bees to learn the  
181 association between the appearance of the corolla and nectar. Once bees started regular foraging on the training  
182 flowers, we proceeded to the advanced training phase, where two training grids were placed in the cage  
183 horizontally and downwardly, respectively. We also added six petri dishes (two per corolla shape), which were  
184 haphazardly placed on the floor as supplementary feeders. The training flowers and petri dishes were filled with  
185 20% (w/w) sucrose solution and were replenished appropriately. Once consistent foraging began, we uniquely  
186 marked reliable foragers on their thorax with numbered, coloured tags.

187 Test trials were conducted using a single test grid placed in the cage. For each trial, we randomly  
188 selected one of the three symmetry types and arranged 12 of them in the grid, and then selected one of the three  
189 orientation types. In other words, one of the nine combination of symmetry and orientation was haphazardly

190 chosen for each trial. As a reward, 10- $\mu$ L of 30% sucrose solution was used (the concentration was increased to  
191 boost the bees' motivation for foraging). A marked bee was selected haphazardly to carry out the trial. Bee  
192 foraging was filmed with a video camera (GZ-MG575-S, JVC Kenwood, Yokohama, Japan) that was placed at  
193 90° to the flowers. When the bee failed to land on a flower for longer than five minutes or attempted to return to  
194 the nest through the gated entrance, we considered the foraging trip to be over; these bees were allowed to return  
195 to the nest on its own, or manually taken from the flight cage to the nest.

196 After the experiment, we went through the videotaped images and took a screenshot of each successful  
197 landing. A successful landing was defined as the bee's posture being stopped on a flower and her proboscis  
198 extended. For each of them, the entry angle was measured using ImageJ (National Institute of Health, Version  
199 1.52q, 2019). We measured the angle between two lines extending from the centre of the flower, i.e., one which  
200 goes vertically down the middle of the flower and another goes down the midline of the bee's body. We defined  
201 the vertical line as a zero degree and measured the counter-clockwise angle of the midline of the bee's body on a  
202 0°–360° scales as the directionality of the bee's entry (Fig. 2).

203 We also measured the time it took for the bees to land on each type of flower (hereafter, "landing  
204 time") to check if floral symmetry or orientation affects the ease of landing on flowers for bees. This was  
205 conducted by placing a video camera at about 90°, 50-80cm away from the flight cage, and recorded the  
206 sideview of the grid. We randomly selected three landings per trial and counted the number of frames it took for  
207 the bee to land on the flower, using Windows Media Player (30 frames per second). Because a bee usually  
208 initiates a hovering phase, approximately 8 mm away from the flower, before moving forwards to land (Reber et  
209 al., 2016), we started counting the frames when the bee first hovered in front of the target flower. The bee was  
210 considered to be hovering when it stayed in the same position for two or more frames. The counting was  
211 continued until the bee touched the flower with either of its legs and the legs remained on the flower during the  
212 successive two frames.

213

#### 214 Statistical analysis

215 We first converted the data of entry angle from degrees to radians. We then calculated the circular variance  
216 (mean resultant length, MRL) for each trial, as the ratio of the observed length of the resultant vector to the  
217 maximum possible length of resultant vector for the same size of sample. The maximum possible length of  
218 resultant vector is obtained when all the entries were in the same direction. For actual computation of MRL, we

219 used the *rho.circular* function in the R package “circular” (Pewsey et al., 2013). The MRL will take a value  
220 from one to zero, which is difficult to interpret in terms of actual angles. Therefore, we converted the MRL into  
221 circular standard deviation (circular SD) using the formula:

$$222 \quad \text{circular SD} = \frac{180}{\pi} \cdot \sqrt{-2 \cdot \log(\text{MRL})}, \quad (1)$$

223 where  $\pi$  is the circular constant. The circular SD, like the usual standard deviation (SD), represents how much  
224 any one arbitrary data point deviates from the central value (mean entry angle) in unit of degrees (Pewsey et al.,  
225 2013).

226 We then fitted a linear-mixed model (LMM) to the data to determine whether and how floral symmetry  
227 and orientation affected the variance of bee’s entry angle. The circular SD was used as the response variable.  
228 We considered floral symmetry and orientation as fixed effects, bee individual as a random effect, together with  
229 an interaction term between symmetry and orientation. A type II Wald Chi-square test was performed to  
230 determine the significance of the fixed effects and the interaction.

231 Because we measured the landing time as the number of frames in video image, we fitted a generalised  
232 linear-mixed model (GLMM) to this data, using a logarithmic link function and a Poisson error distribution. We  
233 calculated the average number of frames elapsed for a landing in each trial, and then used it as a response  
234 variable. Floral symmetry and orientations were considered fixed effects, bee individual as a random effect,  
235 together with the interaction term between symmetry and orientation. A type II Wald Chi-square test was  
236 performed to determine the significance of the fixed effects and interaction.

237

## 238 **Results**

239 We found that the circular SD was significantly affected by orientation (Fig. 3,  $\chi^2 = 235.09$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ , type-II  
240 Wald chi-square test), while it was hardly affected by symmetry or the interaction between symmetry and  
241 orientation (symmetry:  $\chi^2 = 4.13$ ,  $P = 0.17$ ; symmetry x orientation:  $\chi^2 = 4.21$ ,  $P = 0.38$ , type-II Wald Chi-square  
242 test). The post-hoc test suggests that bees were significantly more consistent in their entry angle on horizontally  
243 presented flowers than on upwardly or downwardly presented ones (Fig. 3).

244 On the other hand, the landing time was significantly affected by orientation and the interaction  
245 between symmetry and orientation (Fig. 4, orientation:  $\chi^2 = 55.94$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ , symmetry x orientation:  $\chi^2 =$

246 13.11,  $P = 0.011$ , type-II Wald Chi-square test), while it was hardly affected by symmetry ( $\chi^2 = 1.51$ ,  $P = 0.47$ ,  
247 type-II Wald Chi-square test). The post-hoc test suggests that bees took significantly longer landing on  
248 downwardly presented flowers than on upwardly or horizontally presented ones (Fig. 4).

249

## 250 **Discussion**

251 Bees were observed to enter horizontal flowers at a more consistent angle compared to the other two floral  
252 orientations (Fig. 3). In contrast, floral symmetry had little effect on the consistency of bee's entry angle. The  
253 interaction between floral symmetry and orientation was not significant, either. We also found no significant  
254 effect of floral symmetry on the landing time of bees (Fig. 4). In addition, bees landed almost as quickly on both  
255 the horizontal and upwards flowers, while they took significantly longer to land on the downward flowers.

256 Since the publication of Sprengel (1793), it has often been assumed that zygomorphic corollas restrict  
257 the movement of a pollinator into the flower (e.g., Armbruster and Muchhala 2020). Based on this assumption,  
258 the pollen position hypothesis states that zygomorphy restricts the directionality of approach and movement of  
259 pollinators within and between flowers (Leppik 1972; Ostler and Harper 1978; Cronk and Moller 1997).  
260 However, our data shows that zygomorphy and disymmetry have little to no effect on the consistency of the  
261 bee's entry angle (Fig. 3). Like the radially symmetrical flowers, these flowers allowed the bees to approach  
262 from various directions when orientated upwardly or downwardly, resulting in increased variability of their  
263 entry angle. Even when presented horizontally, zygomorphy and disymmetry did not increase the stability of the  
264 bee's entry compared to actinomorphy (Fig. 3).

265 Our results are inconsistent with those of Culbert and Forrest (2016), who found that bumble bees  
266 entered disymmetric flowers at a higher consistency than they did for actinomorphic ones. Although we do not  
267 know the reason for this discrepancy, we could at least say that the stabilizing effect of disymmetric flowers  
268 found in Culbert and Forrest (2016) was much smaller than that of horizontal flowers in our study: the former  
269 found that standard deviations of entry angles were approximately  $9^\circ$  lower in disymmetric than in  
270 actinomorphic flowers; in contrast, the latter found that approximately  $68^\circ$  of difference in circular standard  
271 deviation of entry angles between horizontal and the other-oriented flowers (mean  $\pm$  SE of circular SD at  
272 horizontal flowers =  $22.5 \pm 3.8^\circ$ ,  $df = 58$ ; upward flowers =  $97.2 \pm 3.9^\circ$ ,  $df = 67$ ; downward flowers =  $83.3 \pm$   
273  $4.1^\circ$ ,  $df = 67$ , estimated from the fitted GLMM). In other words, the stabilizing effect of floral orientation was  
274 more than seven times stronger than that of floral symmetry demonstrated in Culbert and Forrest (2016).

275           The most probable reason why horizontal orientation had the strongest effect on the consistency of the  
276 bee's entry angle (Fig. 3) is because gravity forced the bees to fly with the ventral side of their body facing the  
277 earth. Fenster et al. (2009) also observed that hovering hummingbirds showed more consistent approaches when  
278 flowers were presented horizontally than when the orientation was vertical (upward) or semi-pendant. These  
279 observations strongly suggest that the stabilisation effect does not come from visual guidance of the corolla  
280 shape or the existence of landing platforms on zygomorphic flowers, but the orientation of flowers relative to  
281 the gravity. It has long been known that in nature zygomorphic flowers are typically presented in a horizontal  
282 orientation (Ushimaru and Hyodo 2005). Therefore, much of our field impression that pollinators approach to  
283 zygomorphic flowers more consistently may have been heavily influenced or misled by this strong correlation  
284 between zygomorphy and horizontality.

285           Our data supports the idea proposed by Fenster et al. (2009) that the stability of pollinator entry angle  
286 would be first conferred by the evolution of horizontal flowers that have been driven by abiotic stress, such as  
287 rainfall. They also pointed out the possibility that horizontal orientation set the stage for the evolution of  
288 symmetry in sexual organs, as a result of its stabilising effect on pollinator entry. It is likely that horizontal  
289 presentation of flowers promoted the evolution of symmetric sexual organs in flowers through the increased  
290 accuracy of pollen placement. Considering that corolla symmetry had little effect on the stability of entry angle  
291 (Fig. 3), however, it seems questionable whether this horizontality eventually lead to the evolution of  
292 zygomorphic corolla.

293           Our finding leaves open the question as to why zygomorphic flowers have evolved in the first place,  
294 especially in association with horizontal presentation. Given the current information, the most likely  
295 evolutionary advantage of zygomorphic corollas would be the restriction of pollinator type, to select for  
296 specialised and effective pollinators. This has been supported by empirical evidence (Lázaro and Totland 2014;  
297 Yoder et al. 2020). However, it remains unclear if the restriction of pollinator type works better when  
298 zygomorphic flowers are presented horizontally.

299           Alternatively, zygomorphic flowers might increase the ease of landing through visual guidance, leading  
300 to an increased attractiveness for pollinators. This was unsupported by our landing time data (Fig. 4), in which  
301 no significant association was detected between corolla symmetry and landing time. The idea that zygomorphic  
302 corolla increases the attractiveness was also unsupported, at least in bumble bees (Culbert and Forrest 2016).  
303 There is a possibility that the evolution of zygomorphy may be driven by natural selection acting on the lower

304 lips, serving as a landing platform for pollinators, and the zygomorphic corolla could be a developmental by-  
305 product of this selection. Future studies should explore the precedence of horizontality in the evolution of  
306 zygomorphy, as well as the selective advantages of a zygomorphic corolla or its associated traits, such as well-  
307 developed lower lips. The use of 3D flowers will make it possible to test whether the existence of lower lips on  
308 zygomorphic flowers, which are more common in nature than the 2D flowers we used here, could change the  
309 results on the effects of the association between zygomorphy and horizontal orientation on the consistency of  
310 pollinator's entry angle. Finally, we also urge future studies to quantify the effect of floral symmetry and  
311 orientation on pollen transfer to see how plausible the previous assumptions are in terms of actual pollination  
312 accuracy.

313           In sum, we first attempted to dissect the entangled effects of corolla symmetry and orientation on the  
314 consistency of pollinator's entry angle. We presented compelling evidence that the visual symmetry of corolla  
315 has little effect on the consistency of entry angle. Rather, we found that horizontal presentation of flowers plays  
316 the largest role in stabilizing pollinator entry. These results may force a reconsideration of the common  
317 conception about the evolutionary significance of zygomorphic flowers. That is, zygomorphic corollas have  
318 often been assumed to stabilize pollinator's entry to flowers. This could be a misconception caused by the fact  
319 that zygomorphic flowers are typically presented at horizontal orientation. That is, horizontal orientation, rather  
320 than corolla symmetry, may stabilize entry angle by forcing the pollinator to orient itself relative to gravity. We  
321 thus suggest that zygomorphy in and of itself may not restrict the entry angle of pollinators but may instead  
322 allow for the evolution of corolla shape differences which further restrict the entry angle, thus leading to more  
323 precise pollen placement. In this respect, our data may support Fenster et al.'s (2009) proposal that horizontal  
324 orientation preceded the evolution of zygomorphy. Future studies are needed to determine how the stabilization  
325 effect of horizontal presentation affect pollination accuracy, as well as whether and how zygomorphic flowers  
326 have evolved and maintained in many angiosperm lineages.

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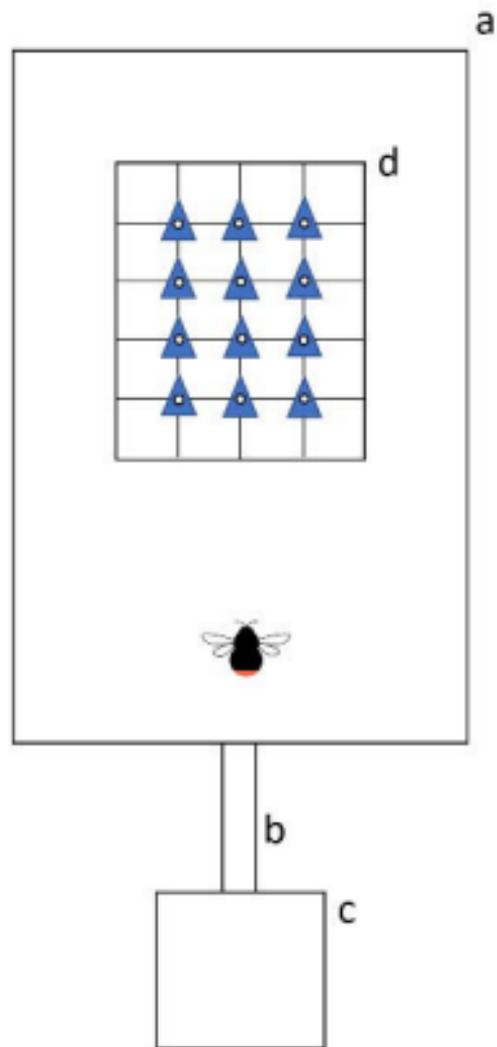
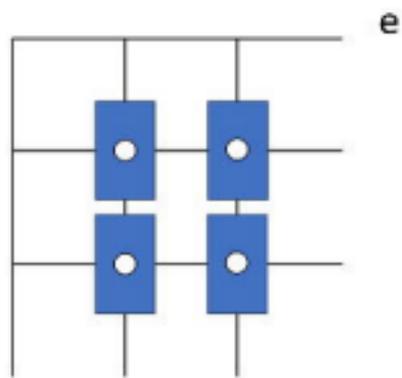
400 **Figures**

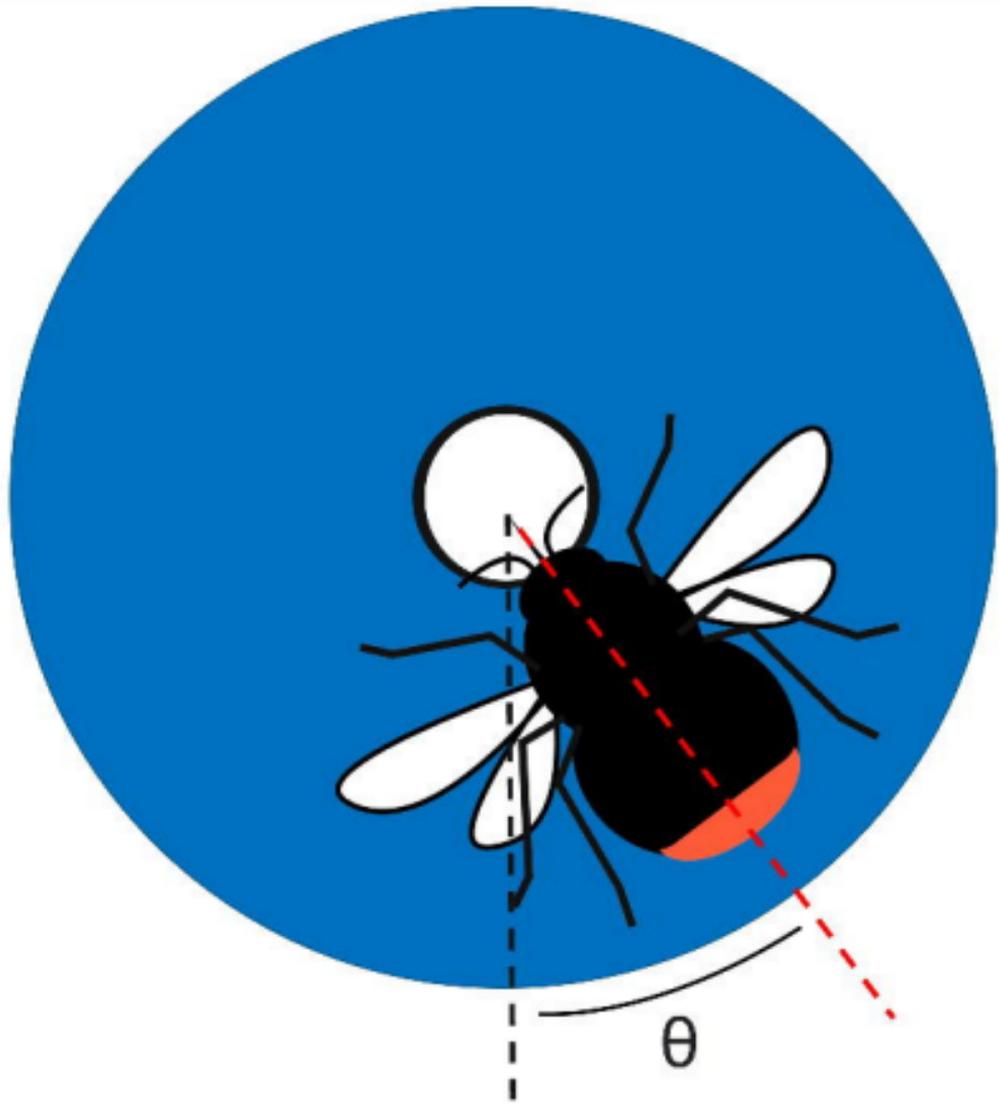
401 **Fig 1** An aerial view of the experimental set up when flowers were oriented upwardly. Aa: flight cage; b: tunnel  
402 for bees to pass through with gated entrance; c: colony; d,e: grid of artificial flowers. The alignments is shown  
403 for zygomorphic (d) and dissymmetric (e) flowers, respectively.

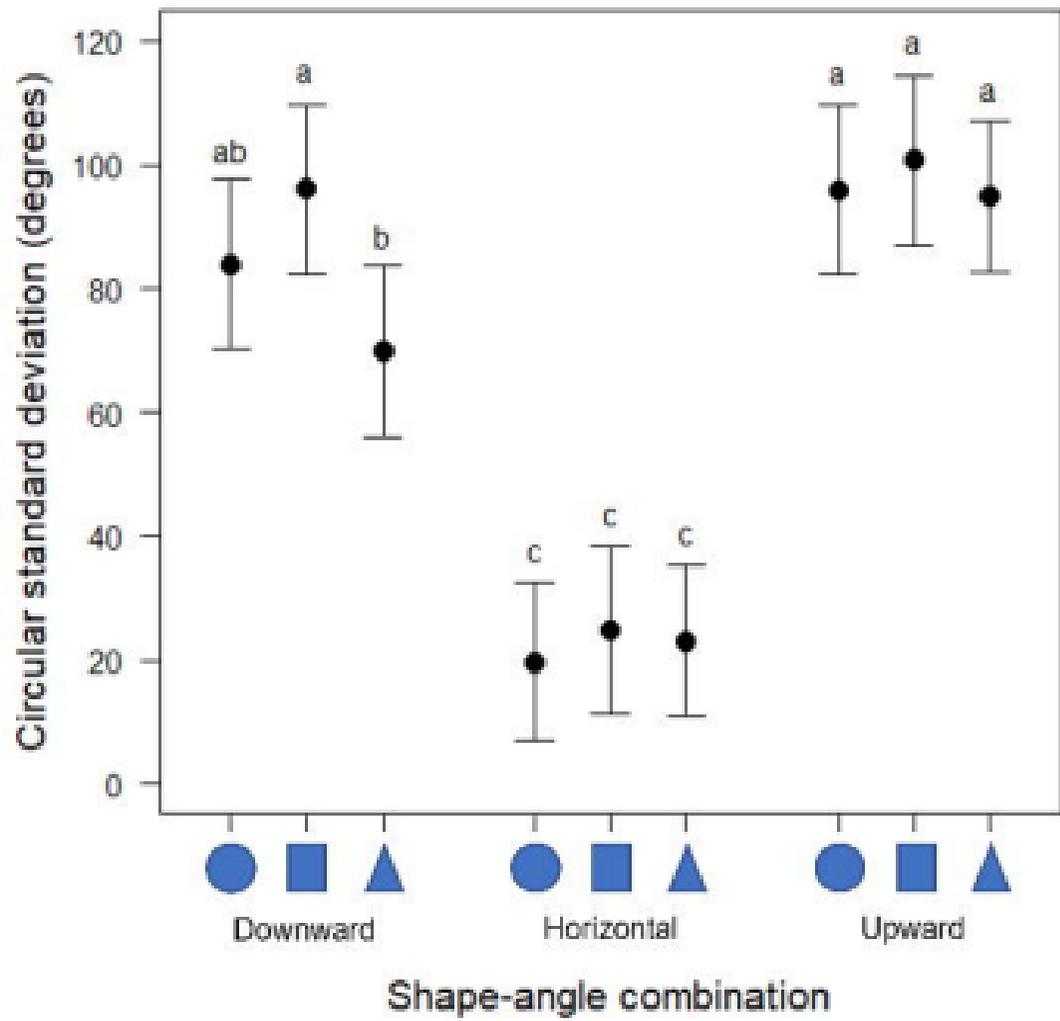
404 **Fig 2** Schematic representation of the method used for measuring the entry angle of a bee. Two dotted lines  
405 were drawn from the centre of the artificial flower, one going down the middles of the flower (black) and  
406 another down the midline of the bee. We defined the black line as a zero degree and measured the counter-  
407 clockwise angle between these lines on a 0-360° scale as the bee's entry angle.

408 **Fig 3** The circular SD of pollinator entry angle in nine shape-angle combinations. The shapes present on the X  
409 axis represent radial symmetry, bilateral symmetry, and zygomorphy, respectively. The data is divided into three  
410 groups; (a), (b), (c). Error bars indicate the standard error of the circular SD for each combination. Means with  
411 shared letters indicate that there is no significant difference at a 0.05 alpha level. Significance levels are adjusted  
412 by Tukey correction. The data indicates that horizontal orientation results in a lower circular SD, indication less  
413 variance in entry angle compared to other orientations. Upward and downward facing artificial flowers have a  
414 similar circular SD, however radial-downward and bilateral-downward showed slightly lower circular SD  
415 compared to other combinations of upward or downward flowers.

416 **Fig 4** The average landing time (in number of frames) in nine shape-angle combinations. The shapes present on  
417 the X axis represent radial symmetry, bilateral symmetry, and zygomorphy, respectively. The data is divided  
418 into four groups; (a), (b), (c), (d). Error bars indicate the standard error of the circular SD for each combination.  
419 Means with shared letters indicate that there is no significant difference at a 0.05 alpha level. Significance levels  
420 are adjusted by Tukey correction. The data indicates that horizontal and upward facing flowers have lower mean  
421 landing times, while downward facing flowers had the longer landing times.







Landing time (# of frames)

50  
40  
30  
20  
10  
0



Downward

Horizontal

Upward

Shape-angle combination

