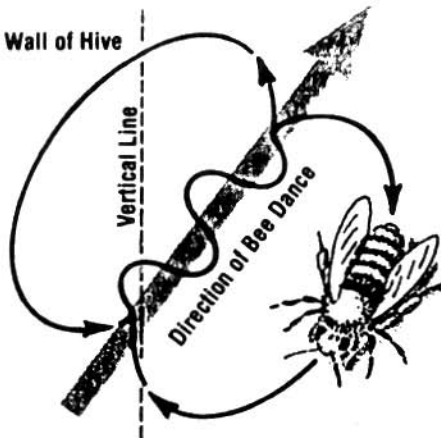


How Bee Dances Point the Way

Wall of Hive



Angle formed in bee dance corresponds to angle between food and sun.



BEE DANCE

The scout or messenger bee goes out and locates flowers with honey. He returns and excitedly tells a group of the others. The distance, direction, and size of the honey crop is all contained in an encoded message he shares with the other bees through special movements. Moving in a figure eight pattern, the angle at which the bee runs through the center part of this movement indicates the position of the food source in relation to the sun. The duration of abdominal flicks, or wiggles, it makes during the straight run central part of the run is proportional to the distance of the food from the hive. Before leaving the hive, the other bees sniff the messenger bee, and flying off to the specified location, only go to flowers that smell like the odor collected by the messenger bee. This keeps the honey collected from becoming mixed up with other types of honey.

