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# The role of useful microorganisms for stingless bees and stingless bee keeping

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Bacteria, molds and yeasts associated with bees have been studied for a long period. Although they seem to play an important role for bee nutrition and protection against harmful micro-organisms, few studies have focused on their function and this subject is still very controversial. Although stingless bees (Apidae: Meliponini) share many similarities with *Apis mellifera*, this diverse group still conceals many particularities that have not been explored at all. Here we discuss the role of non-pathogenic microorganisms from stingless bee colonies and we focus on their applicability to stingless bee keeping. Our aim is to stimulate studies on functional aspects of micro-organisms from stingless bees and their products where upon microorganisms are involved.