



Station 4

POLLINATION – THE HIDDEN NETWORK OF LIFE

Pollination – the foundation of life

What is pollination?

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the male part of a flower (stamen) to the female part (pistil).

Without pollination:

- There is no fertilization,
- No seeds,
- No fruits.

While visiting flowers, bees transfer pollen from one plant to another.



Why is this important?

Pollination enables:

- The growth of apples, pears and cherries,
- The cultivation of zucchini, cucumbers and strawberries,
- The production of seeds for the following year,
- The survival of meadows and forests.

About 75% of the world's cultivated plants depend at least partly on pollinators. Around 35% of global food production directly depends on pollinators.

Importance for the ecosystem

Without bees we would have:

- Less fruit,
- Fewer nuts,
- Fewer vegetables,
- Poorer and less diverse meadows.

Pollination is an ecosystem service. This means nature performs work that would otherwise have to be done artificially – which would be extremely expensive and nearly impossible.



Did you know?

The disappearance of bees would trigger a domino effect in the food chain.

Albert Einstein is often quoted as saying:

"If bees disappeared, humanity would have only a few years left to live."