

RESONATING BODIES

Trading Card Series 1



Tongue

RESONATING BODIES

Trading Card Series 1

SUPER POWER SERIES 4 OF 9

Although bees can't leap tall buildings in a single bound, they have powers that make them unique. Bees have evolved specialized ways to find and collect food, to sense their environment and to help pollinate flowers, all of which are pretty super!

The bumble bee tongue is multi-branched, with fine hairs to help soak up nectar. It is a chemosensory organ, helping the bee both taste and smell. A bumble bee's tongue length determines what kind of flower it can collect nectar from. When bees fly, the tongue is folded and stored under their heads.

Pictured: *Bombus vagans* shows how it's done.
Resonating Bodies Trading Cards Series 1 #13

More info: <http://resonatingbodies.wordpress.com>

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Mandibles

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SUPER POWER SERIES 5 OF 9

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The mandibles are mouthparts akin to jaws used to cut and chew materials for food or nesting materials. Mason and leafcutter bees (family *Megachilidae*) use their mandibles to construct their nests, while short-tongued bumble bees use mandibles to cut holes in the base of flowers and steal nectar.

Pictured: *Megachile inermis* shows powerful jaws.
Resonating Bodies Trading Cards Series 1 #14

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Mandibles

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Static Charge

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Bees build up an electrostatic charge as they fly. When a bee visits a flower, the pollen is statically attracted to the bee's hair and jumps on board! During its next flower visit, the pollen on the bee is statically attracted to the stigma, the flower's female part, improving pollination.

Pictured: *Megachile*
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Static Charge

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Pollen Basket

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SUPER POWER SERIES 7 OF 9

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Female bumble bees have a corbicula, or pollen basket, a smooth concave area surrounded by long hairs on their hind legs. Bees collect pollen and mix it with nectar to form a paste, which they pack into the corbicula for transport back to the colony. A bee can carry 20% of its body weight in pollen!

Pictured: The corbicula of *Bombus impatiens*.
Resonating Bodies Trading Cards Series 1 #16

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Pollen Basket