

## CHAPTER 7

### BEE VENOM'S APPLICATIONS AND EFFECTS ON ANIMALS

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#### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the increase in the awareness of nutrition with natural products has increased the popularity of bee products. Various studies are carried out around the world to improve the use of bee products in food, agriculture, and animal husbandry. Turkey has a high beekeeping potential due to its rich nectar resources, suitable climatic conditions, and strong genetic diversity. Despite this, the production and use of bee products other than honey is not at the desired level.

Natural complementary products are widely used for the purpose of providing well-being in health and as possible treatment methods for some diseases. In recent years, the use of natural products as an alternative to antibiotics has been promoted to improve the performance of animals and increase their immunity. The importance of bee products and their reliability in the production, processing, marketing, and use stages of bee products have gained importance in recent years, not only in the nutritional stage, but also in apitherapy (use of bee products in the protection and treatment of health) applications. These applications are accepted as complementary or supportive treatments in the medical world. Apitherapy practises are based on the results of long-term scientific research and natural treatment understanding. Bee products are often used effectively in human nutrition and in the treatment or prevention of various diseases. However, there are very few studies focusing on apitherapy applications in animals. It is known that with the increasing interest in the protection of bees, bee products will gain more importance. The inclusion of bee products in the daily diets of farm animals should be encouraged by appropriate training of animal breeders. Overuse of antibiotics in animals is a food safety and public health problem. The use of bee products may be an alternative method in the treatment of antibiotic-resistant species that are emerging with increasing frequency. It should be noted that the bioavailability of bee products is higher than that of synthetic drugs. Many studies

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