

Consumption of bees and other insects by adult males and females hardun, *Laudakia stellio*, caught during summer months in Rafah locality

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During two successive years (2005 and 2006), was studied using a total of 30 specimens for each sex. Classification of stomach contents of the dissected animals showed that out of 54.25 and 50.75 ingested insects by hardun males and females, 48.75 and 42.50 were honeybee individuals, representing 89.86 and 83.74%, respectively. This ensures the importance of this lizard as a serious honeybee predator in Rafah locality. The efficiency of traditional nets and traps for catching hardun, was also evaluated in Rafah locality during the same seasons. Obtained results revealed that, the highest efficiency of nets and traps 10.10 & 4.04% and 7.49% & 4.07% was recorded in June 2005 and June 2006, respectively, representing the total percentages of 14.14% and 11.56%, respectively. In spite of the efficiency of net as compared with traps, both tools were inefficient for catching hardun. So, it is advised to find out other methods to minimize the population of hardun around the apiary to protect bee colonies from its attack. On the other hand, the presence of nets around the experimental apiary for catching hardun caused an obvious increase in the mean amount of stored honey by 68.48%. Key words: Hardun, *Laudakia stellio*, Honeybee, Natural enemies, efficiency, nets, traps, Protection.

