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原文



The reading presents three reasons doubting whether bees existed on Earth 200 million years ago and the nests found inside the fossil was made by bees then. The speaker thinks it is perfectly possible and all the arguments proposed in the reading are not convincing.

First, the speaker points out that the fact that no fossil of actual bees dating 200 million years ago have ever been found does not necessarily means bees did not exist then. It may be because bees could not be preserved as fossils at that time. If an animal get preserved as fossil, there have to be trees producing resin which incidentally covered the whole body of the animal. However, these trees were very rare then and they did not become common until much later. So maybe there was bees then, but since there was not such trees, bees could not be preserved.

Second, the speaker does not agree that bees could not have existed before flowering plants appeared. Although bees nowadays feed on flowers, it is possible that bees 200 million years ago feed on non-flowering plants. They may relied on plants like pine trees which appeared on Earth before flowering plants. After plants evolved to have flowers, bees made and adaption and maintained their relationship with flower ever since.

Finally, the speaker argues that even though the nests found in fossil lack some details of bee nests, there lays chemical evidences that they were built by bees. Bees now days use some special substance made by themselves to make their nests water proving. When the fossils were chemically analyzed, they were found to contain the same kind of material, which indicates they were really made by bees 200 million years ago.