



BRAZIL NUTS

A KEYSTONE SPECIES

High up in the widespread Amazon rainforest, the Brazil nut tree finds its home, bearing its unique fruit. Resembling a coconut with a tough exterior, each fruit contains around twenty prized nuts. When ripe, these heavy fruits naturally fall to the forest floor, a spectacular event in this intricate ecosystem.

The annual harvest of Brazil nuts varies with the changing climate and environmental conditions, emphasizing the importance of protecting these delicate ecosystems and the diverse wildlife within them. The Brazil nut tree is not just a provider of nuts but a keystone species, integral to the biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest.



WORKING IN HARMONY
WITH NATURE

PRINCIPLE OF ECOLOGY

*Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.**

*Source: IFOAM



*Going nuts over
Brazil nuts*

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THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF THE CARPENTER BEE AND THE AMAZING AGOUTI IN THE SURVIVAL OF THE BRAZIL NUT

The survival of the brazil nut tree depends on a fascinating web of interactions within its environment. The tree's flowers, with their cream-colored petals and conspicuous yellow spot at the entrance, are specially adapted to attract their sole pollinators: a particular species of bees – called carpenter bees. These bees, guided by the yellow spot, force their way into the flowers to access nectar, getting dusted with pollen in the process.

As these bees move from tree to tree, they facilitate cross-pollination, crucial for the reproduction of brazil nuts. However, it doesn't end there. The agouti, a rodent animal resembling a guinea pig, plays a vital role in the tree's regeneration. These animals work their way through the tough shell to eat the nuts but often bury more than they consume. This behaviour allows new brazil nut trees to sprout, ensuring the continuation of the species.



Carpenter
bee



Agouti

THREE REASONS WHY THEY ARE THE BEES KNEES

- 1 Carpenter bees are a type of large (12 – 25 mm), solitary bees that are known for their habit of burrowing into wood to create their nests, which distinguishes them from other bees that usually nest in the ground or in hives.
- 2 Female carpenter bees excavate tunnels in wood to lay their eggs. They prefer untreated, soft woods like pine, cedar, or redwood, which they can easily bore into. Each tunnel can be several inches long and may have multiple chambers, each housing an individual egg.
- 3 Carpenter bees may not be as efficient as honeybees or bumblebees due to their larger size and different foraging habits. However, like other bees, they are important pollinators. They feed on nectar and collect pollen, playing a vital role in the ecosystem.

THREE DAUNTING DETAILS ABOUT THE AGOUTI

- 1 The agouti is a rodent species belonging to the family Dasyproctidae, native to Central and South America. These animals are often compared to large guinea pigs due to their similar appearance but are much more agile and have longer legs. They prefer dense undergrowth where they can hide from predators but are also known to venture into more open spaces when searching for food.
- 2 In some indigenous cultures, the agouti has symbolic significance, often representing fertility or being part of folklore.
- 3 Agoutis are commonly found in tropical rainforests, savannas, and sometimes in agricultural areas. They are herbivores and primarily eat fruits, nuts, seeds, and leaves. These fascinating mammals play a crucial role in the ecosystem by spreading seeds. Some of the seeds they bury remain forgotten and later sprout, contributing to forest growth and regeneration.



Discover more about the amazing world of brazil nuts!

