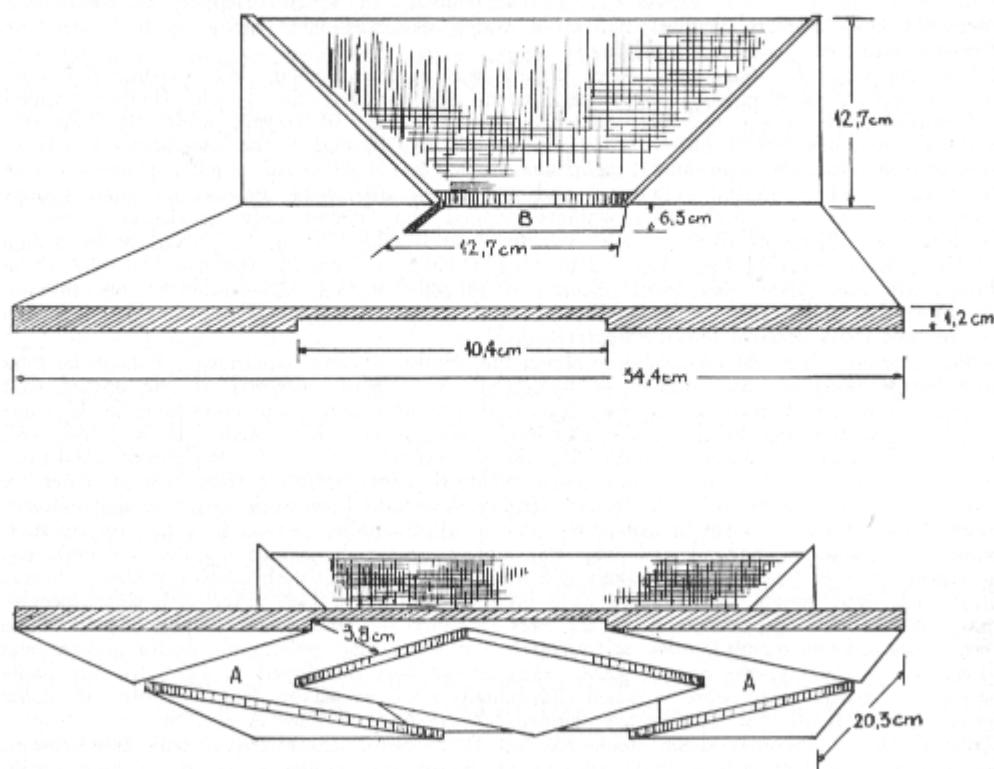


POLLINATION BY BEES : USE OF POLLEN INSERTS

In 1958, "Canadian Journal of Plant Science" published an article by G. F. Townsend, R. T. Riddell, and M. V. Smith, dwelling on the use of inserts for distribution of pollen to be used by bees for pollinating tree fruits. After a historical account on the pollen dispensers — from that devised by Burrel and King to that used by themselves —, the authors concluded that: "The efficient use of pollen inserts on honeybee colonies set out for orchard pollination requires attention to a number of details. Careful consideration must be given to timing of the application, uniform distribution of colonies, number of colonies, selection of a suitable pollen, care of the pollen, frequent filling of the insert trays, and to the foraging activities of the bees themselves. In addition, only healthy, well-fed trees can be expected to respond to this treatment". They pointed out that the method is outstandingly useful especially in the intervals when honeybees' foraging activity is limited by unfavourable weather conditions, or in orchards where the number of pollinator varieties is not sufficient so that natural cross-pollination is compromised.



Modified Nova Scotia Apicultural College pollen insert
 Upper — top view from rear, showing the pollen tray (B)
 Lower — bottom view from rear, showing modified passage-ways
 for returning honeybees (A)