

Catching a ride

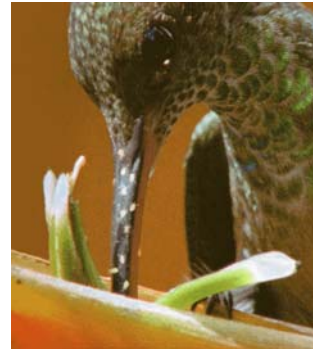


Wesley loves the humming birds that come to the bushes outside her bedroom window. While they are feeding at the flowers, they hover in the air flapping their wings 70 times a second – so fast you can't see them moving.



Photo source: kookr

Flower mites use humming birds as a private airline to get between flowers where they feed on pollen and nectar. When a humming bird visits the flower they are on, they run up the bird's bill to the safety of their nostril before it takes off.



Can you see the mites on the humming bird's beak?

Each variety of mite only inhabits one type of flower. The 0.5 millimetre long mites haven't any eyes so they can't see when they have arrived at their flower (and there isn't a flight attendant to tell them) so they "smell" chemicals released by each flower through tiny hairs on their legs. Amazingly neither humans nor hummingbirds can smell these flowers. When the humming bird arrives at the right flower, the mites quickly disembark.

Listen to God! Job 12:7-13



Isn't God amazing and clever to create flower mites and their transport system like this? The flowers they feed off are only open for one day and there is no other way for them to get from one to another.

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord God, that when we learn about these tiny flower mites, we learn about you and how clever you are. Give us a desire to learn more about your amazing creation.



Fly between the dots to find the humming bird. Colour it bright colours