

Apis mellifera mellifera

Richard Bond, October 2014

Through Winter's frosts the honeybee
huddles in honeyed womb
on warmer days new life begins
one egg in one wax room

Apis dorme dorme

Awaken! Spring pollen gratis
catkin, crocus raided
new comb is drawn and larvae grow
colony expanded

Apis natis natis

Long Summer days ambrosia
dreams of empire founded
the queen has gone! Long live the queen!
maiden, drone united

Apis supersedia supersedia

Autumn decays while heather flows
harvest's home, sealed-cell stored
sorority expels all drones
the matriarch restored

Apis repose repose
