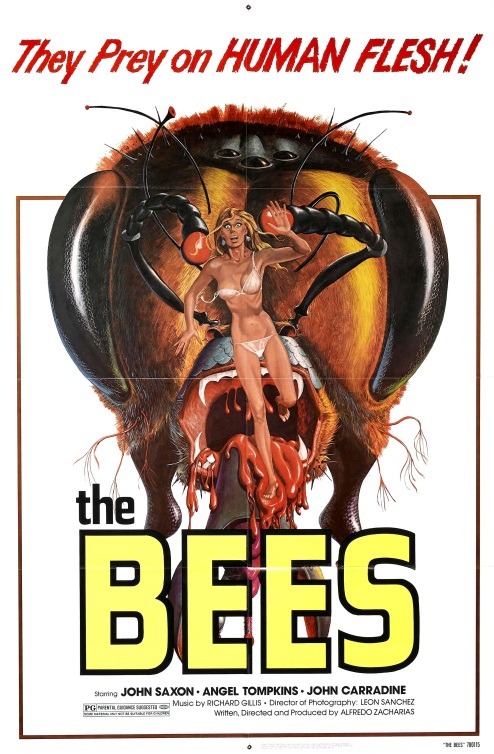
Africanized Honey bees – South +North America   
  
In 1956 colonies of African Honey Bees, desired for their better adaptability to the tropical climate, were imported into Brazil, with the idea of cross-breeding them with local Honey Bees to increase honey production. A year later twenty-six African queens escaped from an experimental apiary about l00 miles south of Sao Paulo. These escaped convicts bred with the European honey bee population and had since created the hybrid species that is, Africanized honey bees.   
  
The thing about Africanized honey bees is that unlike their indigenous cousin species they are more aggressive in nature and are 10 times more prone to attack. These attacks have been known to deal lethal blows to communities. In Brazil alone it has been estimated that bee attacks have lead to more than 1000 deaths. Hence their colloquial name ‘killer bees’.   
  
other characteristics include;

* frequent swarming to establish new nests
* minimal hoarding of honey
* the ability to survive on sparse supplies of pollen and nectar
* moving their entire colony readily (abscond) if food is scarce
* exploiting new habitats very quickly and is not particular about its nesting site.
* a highly defensive nature
* responding more quickly and more bees sting
* sensing a threat from people or animals 50 feet or more from their nest
* sensing vibrations from power equipment 100 feet or more from nest
* pursuing a perceived enemy 1/4 mile or more

Due to their better suited nature to the tropical environment the Africanized honey bees (AFB) quickly out-competed the native honey bees. There were even cases where AFB colonies took over hives and replaced queens. The species now dominates the whole of south America and has now been increasingly dominant in central America and parts of southern U.S.A.

Benefits  
unlike most invasive species the AFB is one that pose minimal initial threat to the ecosystem as it is a far superior pollinator when compared to the indigenous species and it has been proven that an ecosystem can function on a sufficient level even if the AFB species completely takes over.   
  
Negative Effects  
At this stage it is too early to see any noticeable imbalance within the ecosystem therefore much of its short comings fall into the ‘what if’ category.  
  
As it is their nature to swarm frequently and are beginning to spread their dominance toward the north. It could very well reach a point at which the ABF are the sole species of bees left. If this were the case when colonies migrate northwards Brazil, and other South American nations, may very well be facing detrimental losses in biodiversity and more importantly food. To put it simply our survival is dependent upon these and the process of pollination.   
  
BEES POLINATE PLANTS FEED ANIMALS FEED US

 CROPS LIVE STOCK  
  
  
Even if this were to happen at a fraction of the scale it would still affect an industry that annually brings $10 million into the economy.  
  
What is more alarming is that since the species is better adapted in tropical conditions as it swarms further north its ability to pollinate would shrink however it would still be capable of wiping out any competing species. Meaning what you are left is an ecosystem dependent upon a single species which cannot function efficiently.  
  
Another area of concern, especially from the economic stand point, would be the effects on the honey industry. As ABFs produce are less fecund in the production of honey bee keepers will produce less yields of honey. In addition due to their aggressive nature the number and the dominance of their spread bee keeper numbers have gone down by 25% over the last 3 years resulting in a further loss in honey production. This is a significant loss considering that the industry brings $140 million dollars annually.

Solutions  
  
Currently the only solutions that have been proposed and are being practiced are; feeding the ecosystems with native honey bees artificially upholding the biodiversity, breeding/ farming bees/ honey in closed environments and monitoring hives to ensure native queens are present. I advise for these measure to continue as is, as there are no definite measures of retracting the AFB species from the environment .