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# The winning story of Omani honey in the London National Honey Show



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## The winner:

Aliya Mohammed Ali Sajwani, a PhD student at Sultan Qaboos University, won the largest number of prizes in the National Honey Show held in London for the Omani honey she exhibited. The prizes included the National Cup, the gold medal, a financial reward, and a number of certificates. Aliya was the only participant who won a prize for each type of honey she showcased, which were Sumur (*Acacia*) honey (from Al-Rustaq State), Sidr (*Ziziphus*) honey (from Al-Mahdha State), and the mixed honey, or the multifloral honey (from Al-Rustaq State). The first type of honey won the first prize, while the second and third types won the third prize each



Honey exhibition in the national honey show



## Omani honey:

Its properties are identical to the international quality specifications in terms of both the physical characteristics (color, smell and taste) and chemical properties (water, sugars, minerals, and enzymatic content). It is harvested in the summer and winter seasons. The common summer floral sources for the honeybees are *Acacia tortilis* (Sumur), *Prosopis* sp. (Ghafa), *Citrus* sp., and *Maerua crassifolia* (Sarah). In the winter, the chief nectar and pollen sources for honeybees are *Ziziphus spina-christi* (Sidr) and *Prosopis* sp. in addition to other wide range of bee plants

## *Ziziphus spina-christi* Honey

عسل السدر

- The most well-known honey in Oman.
- Formed of 25% of the unifloral honey samples
- Winter honey
- Light Amber to amber coloured honey with pleasant aroma and nice flavor.
- *Ziziphus* pollen is characterized by a sub-oblate to oblate spherical shape, 3- 4 colporate apertures, and a faintly striate sexine

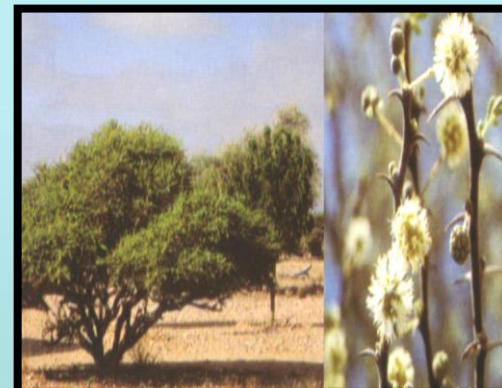


*Ziziphus*  
Pollen

## *Acacia* Honey

عسل السمرة

- *Acacia tortilis* is the major source for honey bees in summer.
- Valuable honey because pesticides are not applied on *Acacia* groves
- Dark amber coloured
- contains quite high amount of sugars.
- Pollen is polyad with 16 monads



*Acacia tortilis* pollen



★ Multifloral honey from Al-Rustaq state won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize



★ Sumur (*Acacia*) honey from Al-Rustaq state won 1<sup>st</sup> prize



★ Sidr (*Ziziphus*) honey from Al Mahadha state won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize

## The National Honey Show:

Is organized by the National Honey Show Limited. It has been held Annually since 1923 in London. The show is one of the oldest and well-known specialized exhibitions that offers various activities and events for beekeepers and researchers in the field of bees and honey and their products.



## Events of the honey show:

- 1- Scientific lectures given by international specialists around the world, presenting the latest scientific studies that serve apiaries and their products.
- 2- Educational and training workshops
- 3- Competitions in the honey types, and honeybee products.
- 4- Honey bee photographs exhibition
- 5- Exhibition of the honey types and honey products
- 6- Bee books fair
- 7- Bee products trade exhibition



## How the honey is evaluated in the honey show

- 1- Clarity: by using a big torch and a lens, which makes finding what is in the honey easy.
- 2- The flavour, texture and aroma.
- 3- The water content of the honey by using refractometer (ideal is 17.4%water)
- 4- The packaging jars are evaluated in terms of shape, size, weight, and type.

The jars should be of transparent glass, free from air bubbles and scratches, and firmly sealed with scratch-free metal lids.



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