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"Beauty and the Bees: Editorial"

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When California was wild, it was one sweet bee-garden throughout its entire length, north and south, and all the way across from the snowy Sierra to the ocean. Wherever a bee might fly within the bounds of this virgin wilderness - through the redwood forests, along the banks of the rivers, along the bluffs and headlands fronting the sea, over valley and plain, park and grove, and deep, leafy glen, or far up the piny slopes of the mountains - throughout every belt and section of climate up to the timber line, bee-flowers bloomed in lavish abundance. (Muir, 1972: 434-435). The last chapter of John Muir's *Mountains of California* is a celebrated evocation of bee pastures and his own early walks through them.

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