

Pain in the Bee-hind and Elsewhere

By Scott LaFee | June 26, 2019

In the name of science (or something), an entomologist named Michael Smith once sacrificed himself to answer the question: Where is the most painful place to be stung? In 2014, he [published his findings](#), inducing honey bees to sting 25 different locations on his body (three times per spot), after which he ranked the resulting discomfort based on the [Schmidt Sting Pain Index](#).

To be sure, Smith's rankings are subjective (and maybe a little bit suspect: Is this guy in his right mind?), but here they are, from least to most painful, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being most painful.

- → 25. Skull (2.3)



- → 24. Middle toe tip (2.3)
- → 23. Upper arm (2.3)

- → 22. Buttocks (3.7)
- → 21. Calf (3.7)
- → 20. Lower back (4.0)
- → 19. Upper thigh (4.7)
- → 18. Wrist (4.7)
- → 17. Foot arch (5.0)
- → 16. Forearm (5.0)
- → 15. Back of knee (5.0)
- → 14. Back of neck (5.3)
- → 13. Behind ear (5.3)
- → 12. Top of hand (5.3)
- → 11. Top of foot (6.0)
- → 10. Abdomen (6.7)
- → 9. Middle finger tip (6.7)
- → 8. Nipple (6.7)
- → 7. Armpit (7.0)
- → 6. Cheek (7.0)
- → 5. Palm (7.0)
- → 4. Scrotum (7.0)
- → 3. Penis shaft (7.3)
- → 2. Upper lip (8.7)
- → 1. Nostril (9.0)

[How best to treat a bee sting and other safety tips for summer time perils.](#)

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