

## Mustard plants<sup>2</sup>

## לגלוגי<sup>1</sup> חרדל -

### Overview

The גמרא cited a משנה which stated that one must distance his mustard plants (חרדל) from the beehive (דבורים).<sup>3</sup> However ר' יוסי permits leaving the חרדל by the דבורים since the בעל החרדל can say to the דבורים; 'instead of me distancing myself from the דבורים you should distance your דבורים from my חרדל, since they eat up לגלוגי'. There are differing opinions as to the meaning of לגלוגי.

פירש הקונטרס<sup>4</sup> פרחים ובערוך פירש גרעין -

רש"י explained that לגלוגי are the flowers of the mustard plant, and in the ערוך he explained that it refers to the mustard seed –

disagrees: תוספות

ותרוייהו אין נראה לרבינו יצחק דהא קאמרי<sup>5</sup> רבנן<sup>6</sup> דבורים לחרדל לא מזקי -

And the ר"י does not subscribe to both of these interpretations, since the רבנן reply to יוסי; 'the bees do not damage the mustard', and the רבנן continue to explain -

אי בנינתא כולי<sup>7</sup> אי בטרפא כולי<sup>8</sup> משמע דלא פירש רבי יוסי בדבריו מה הן מזיקין -

'If you mean that the bees damage the seed, etc. it is not so, and if you mean the leaves, etc. it is not so'. It is evident from this equivocal response of the רבנן, that ר"י was not explicit in his words as to what exactly the bees are damaging -

ולכך היו מסתפקין אי בנינתא כולי<sup>9</sup> -

So therefore the רבנן were in doubt whether ר"י meant the seed etc. –

offers his interpretation: תוספות

ונראה לרבינו יצחק דלגלוגי הם ענפים והשתא לא פירש רבי יוסי מה הם מזיקות -

<sup>1</sup> The marginal note indicates that this תוספות is referencing the גמרא on the עמוד א' See however הגהות הב"ח at the end of תוד"ה ואי that this תוספות should follow and be after the three תוספות on this עמוד.

<sup>2</sup> תוספות will cite various interpretation of the word 'לגלוגי'.

<sup>3</sup> See רש"י on the חרדל ואת ד"ה ואת החרדל that the bees eat the sharp mustard and it makes them consume their honey causing a loss to the beekeeper.

<sup>4</sup> לקמן כה,ב בד"ה לגלוגי.

<sup>5</sup> Later on this עמוד.

<sup>6</sup> The רבנן maintain that the mustard must be distanced from the bees because they cause a loss to the beekeeper, but the bees cause no damage to the mustard (in opposition to the view of ר' יוסי)

<sup>7</sup> The bees cannot find the seed because it is encased in its pod.

<sup>8</sup> It does not matter that the bees will eat the leaves for it will grow back, so no damage is done.

<sup>9</sup> How then can רש"י and the ערוך be specific as to the meaning of לגלוגי (either seed or flower), when even the רבנן were not sure what ר"י meant with לגלוגי?!

**And it is the view of the ר"י that לגלוגי are the branches** of the mustard plant (on which there are both seeds and flowers); **so now ר"י was not specific what they are damaging** on the branches (whether it is the seed or the flowers) -

לכך אמרו ליה רבנן אי בביתא כולי<sup>10</sup> -

**So therefore the רבנן said to ר"י if you mean the seed, etc.**

תוספות asks:

ואם תאמר מכל מקום הרי הן מזיקין לחרדל<sup>11</sup> שיאכלו הפרחים<sup>12</sup> -

**And if you will say;** regardless that there no damage regarding the seeds (because they can't find them) and the leaves (because they grow back), **nevertheless the bees are damaging the mustard for they will eat the flowers –**

תוספות answers:

ויש לומר שהפרחים אינן כי אם מעט<sup>13</sup> וביום או יומים שיעמדו<sup>14</sup> אין יכולין להזיק:

**And one can say; that the flowers are only there for a short time, and in the day or two that the flowers stand, the bees cannot harm** them.

### **Summary**

לגלוגי can mean either flower (רש"י), seed (ערוך), or branches (ר"ת). Eating the (short term) flowers will not cause damage to the plant

### **Thinking it over**

According to רש"י that לגלוגי means flowers, why did the רבנן only discuss the seeds and the leaves, but not the flowers?!

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<sup>10</sup> See previously footnote # 7 and 8.

<sup>11</sup> This question seems to be directed to the answer of the רבנן, but it does not seem connected to the previous discussion as to the meaning of לגלוגי. See (however) 'Thinking it over'.

<sup>12</sup> The flowers are revealed (not like the seed) and do not grow back (not like the leaves). They are necessary for the growth of the plant.

<sup>13</sup> The מעט וביום amends this to read מעט זמן וביום (instead of מעט וביום).

<sup>14</sup> The function of the flowers is for a short time (a day or two); afterwards they fall off and are not necessary. In this short time the bees cannot consume enough of the flowers to cause any harm to the mustard plant. See סוכת דוד יט, א. אות א'