

The *Secret* Life of *Bees*

Using microscopic technology,
photographer Rose-Lynn Fisher takes
a closer look at the honeybee and
reveals the beauty in science

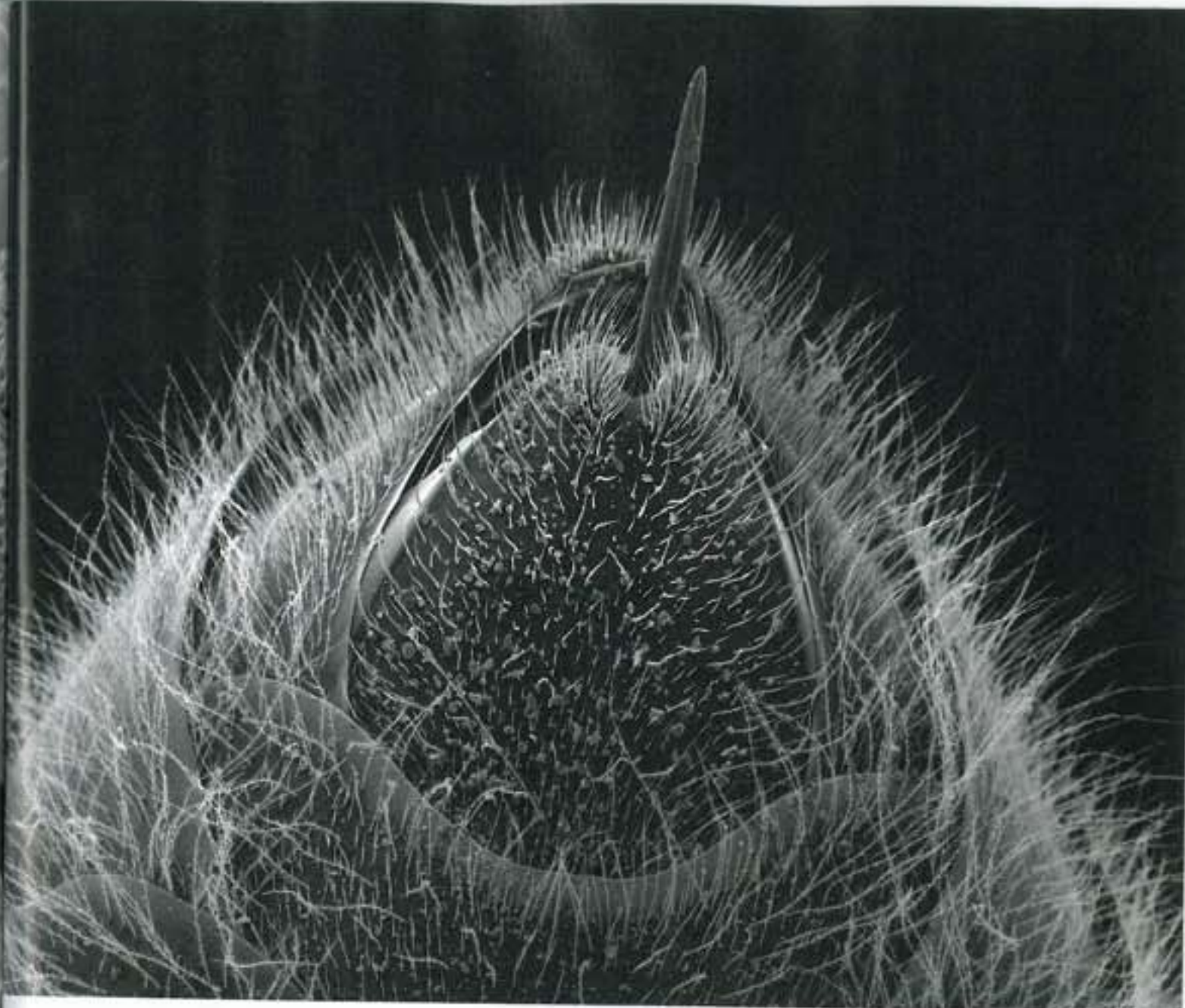
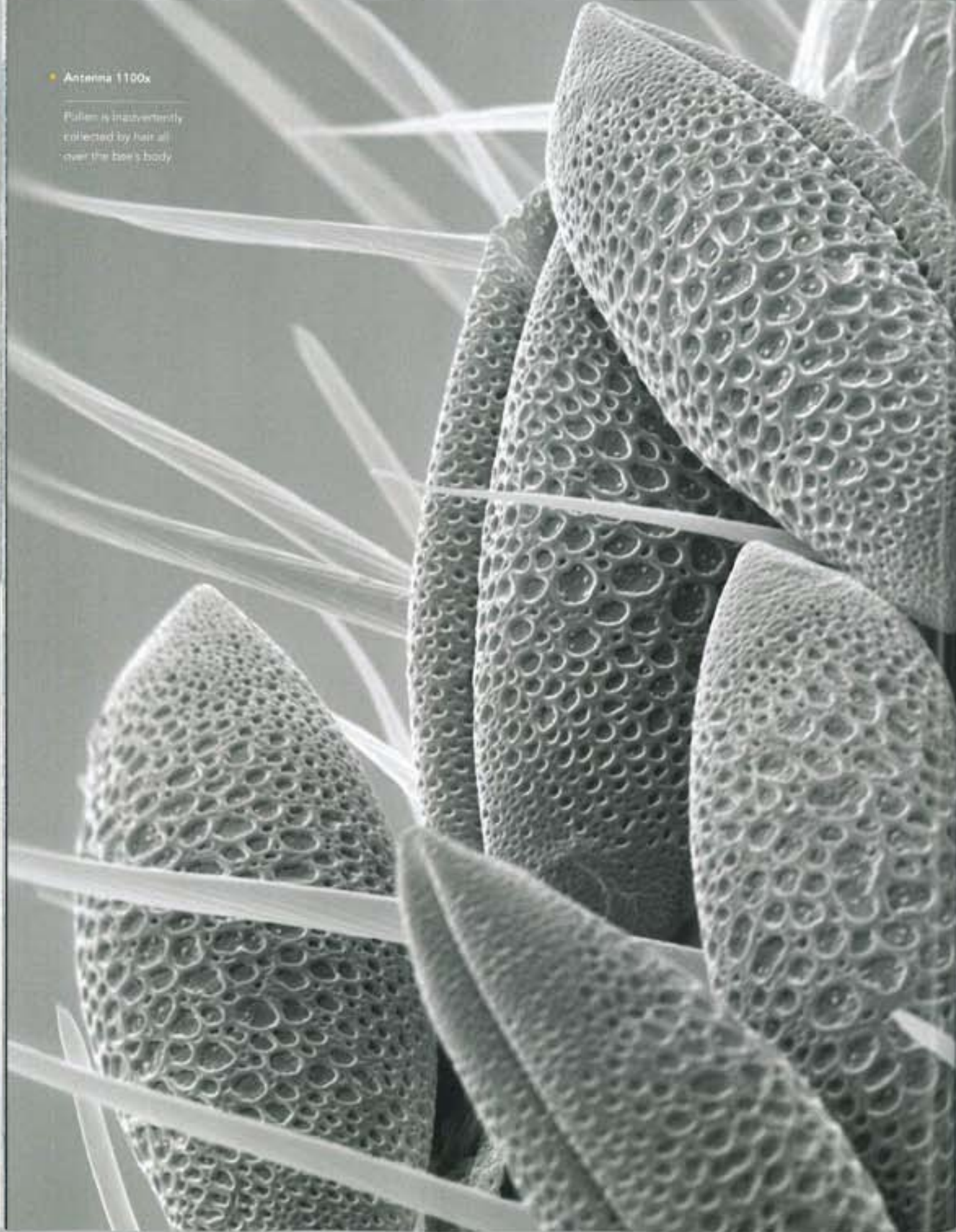
THE FIRST TIME I looked at a bee's eye magnified I was amazed to see a field of hexagons, just like honeycomb. I wondered, is this a coincidence or a clue? Is it simply that hexagons are ubiquitous in nature, or is there a deeper connection between the structure of the bee's vision and the structure she builds? For me, the honeybee symbolizes and embodies a congruency of form and function, vision and action, spirit and matter, all being of the same essence. I offer these photographs in celebration, respect, and gratitude for all that they do and are.

Excerpted from *Bee* by Rose-Lynn Fisher (Princeton Architectural Press)



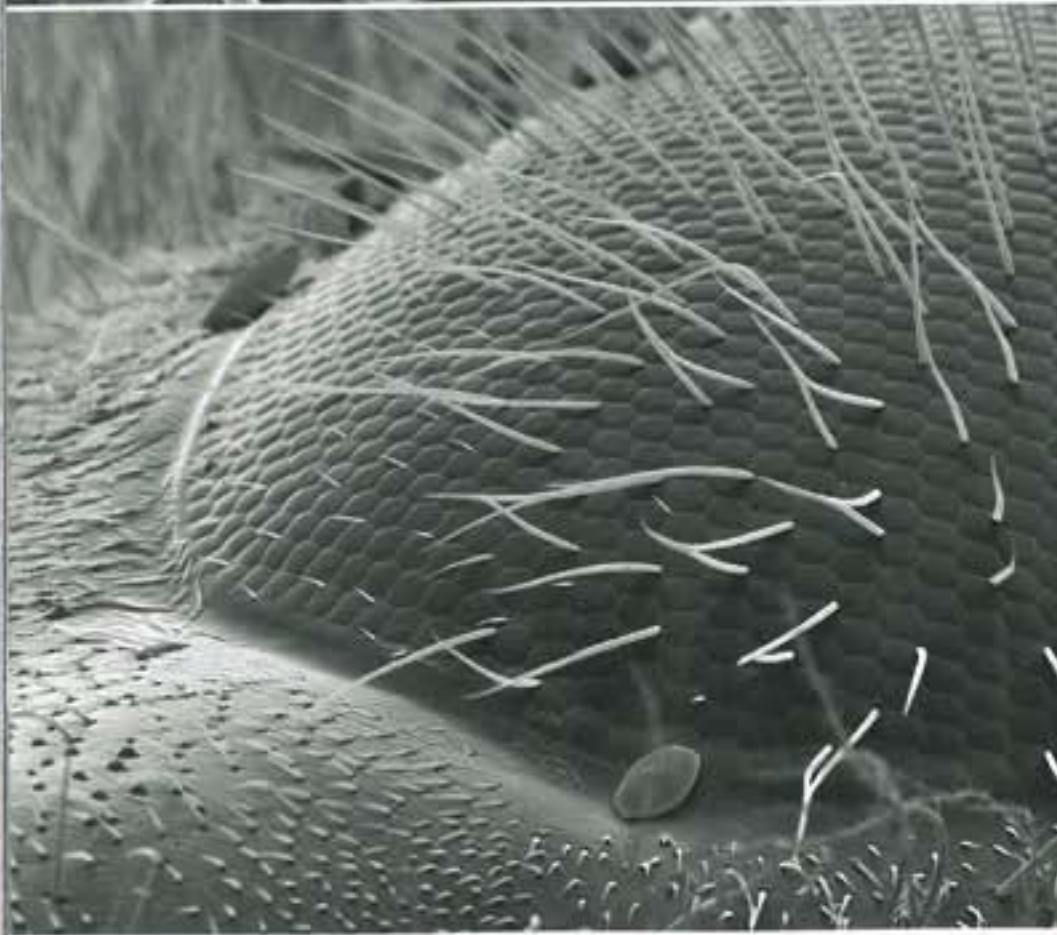
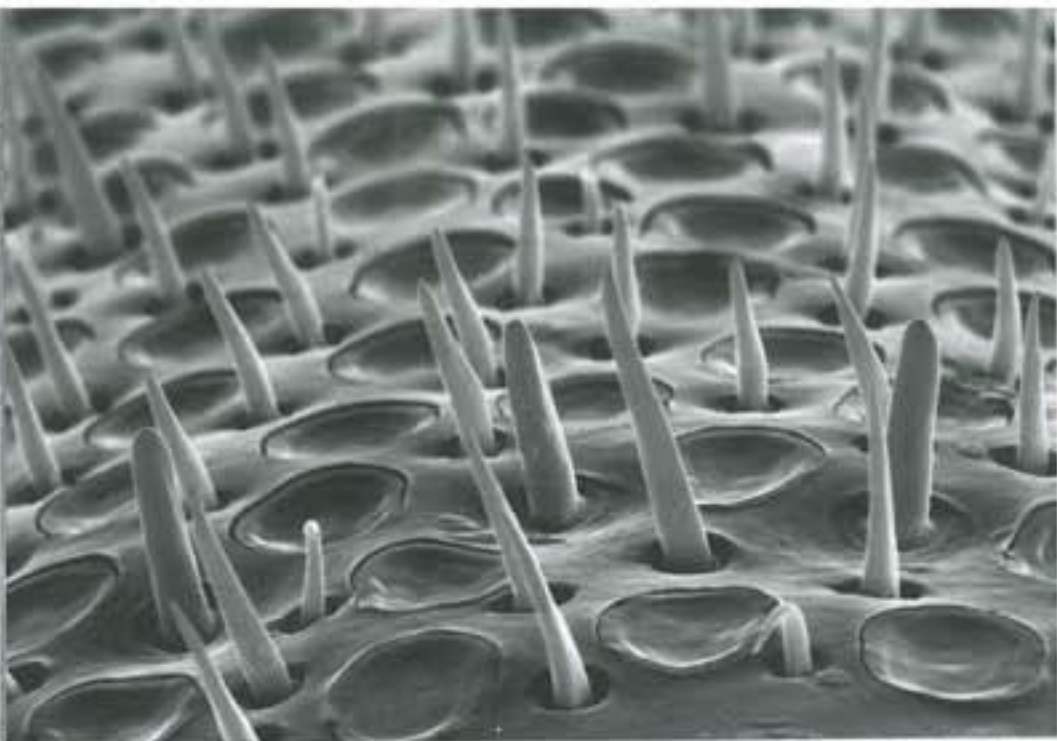
• Antenna 1100x

Pollen is inadvertently collected by hair all over the bee's body



• Sting 37x

The sting is a modified ovipositor (the organ for laying eggs). A bee will sting only in self-defense or in defense of the hive. When threatened, she releases a pheromone, a chemical signal that alerts other bees, triggering a defense response.



[counterclockwise from top left]

• **Antenna 1700x**

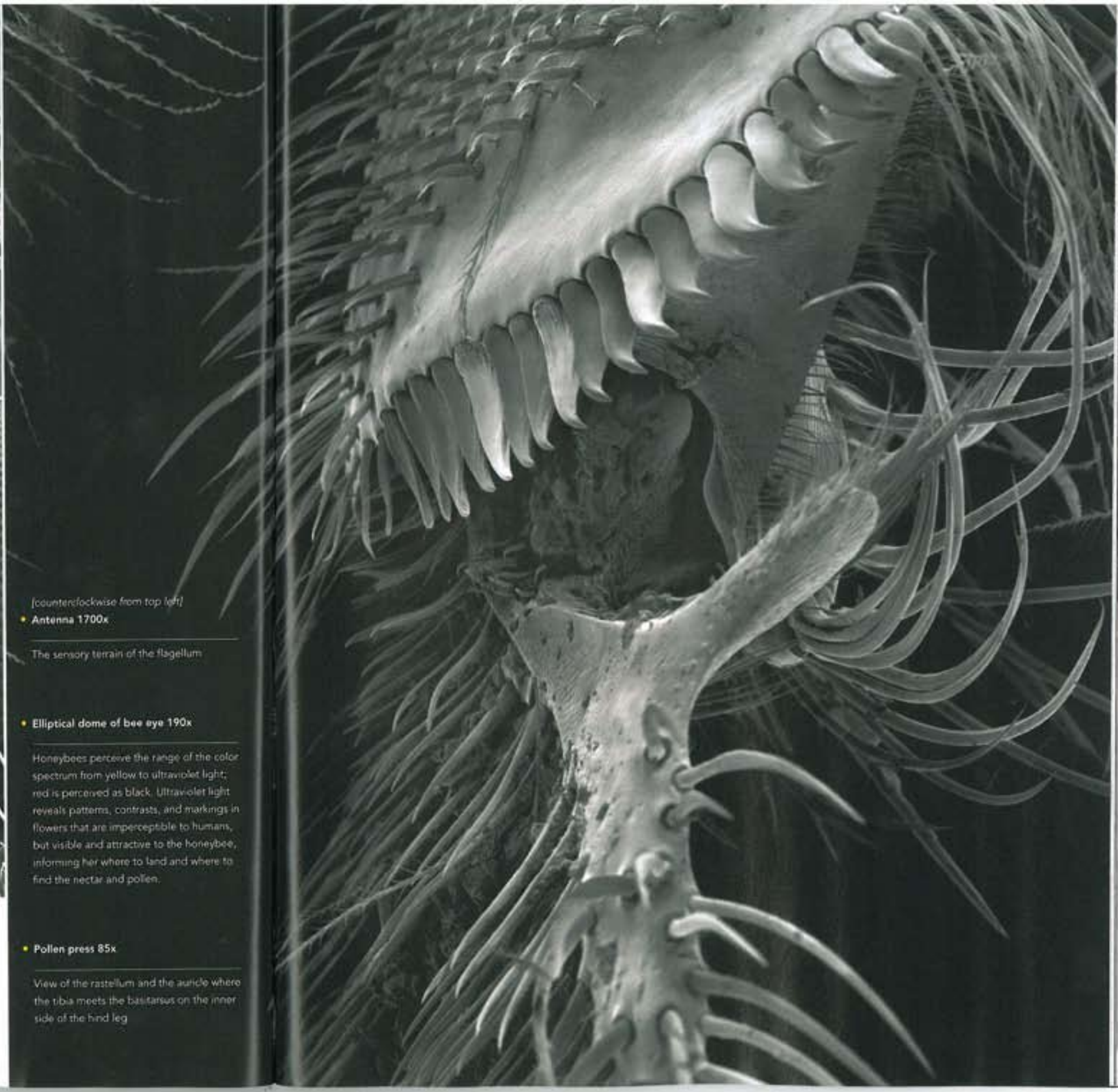
The sensory terrain of the flagellum

• **Elliptical dome of bee eye 190x**

Honeybees perceive the range of the color spectrum from yellow to ultraviolet light; red is perceived as black. Ultraviolet light reveals patterns, contrasts, and markings in flowers that are imperceptible to humans, but visible and attractive to the honeybee, informing her where to land and where to find the nectar and pollen.

• **Pollen press 85x**

View of the rastellum and the auricle where the tibia meets the basitarsus on the inner side of the hind leg



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