“My, what nice antennae you have, pollinator!”

Flies (120,000 species)
Flies best known for pollinating flowers are usually syrphid (also called hover or flower) flies. Most flies have stubby antennae and enormous eyes. They prefer putrid flower scents, often like rotting meat!

Bees (20,000 species)
All bees are pollinators and most of them have long segmented antennae, many with “elbow” bends. Males’ antennae are usually longer than females.

Butterflies (20,000 species)
Many, but not all, butterflies are pollinators. Most butterflies have long, straight antennae with a small nub on the end.

Beetles (400,000 species)
Many beetles are pollinators and many have very long antennae without the elbow bends honeybees have. Beetles were probably the first pollinators to appear on the planet!

“The better to smell you with, my dear flower.”

Photo credits: BEES: Honey Bee by Kim Bailey, Bumble Bee and male Long-horned Bee by Nancy Adamson, Metallic Green Bee by... Beetle and Soldier Beetle by Nancy Adamson. Poster design by Monica Sheppard.

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