



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité



Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Autumn 2021

Committed to protect biodiversity, ADELAC invests in sponsorship of bees. Come and get an inside peek of the incredible life of foraging bees. If you are a nature lover, you will certainly enjoy it.

ADELAC

– Beehive history –

The Varroa mite - public enemy number one to bees

He's tiny but does massive damage. The varroa is the enemy number one to bees. This mite is a parasite that has been present in all French beehives since the early 1980s and which previously made its way into Europe in the 1970s. Barely one to two millimetres large, he attacks bees at all stages of their life and feeds on their fatty tissue. Queen, forager, male, larva or nymph... the whole family can carry these unwanted microscopic hosts on them.

And when an infected forager encounters a counterpart from another hive, the varroa will often take the opportunity to change carriers, thus infecting other bee hives. The damage can be considerable if nothing is done to help the bees and can even lead to the extinction of the hive.

For that reason, depending on his method of working, every year, and sometimes even several times a year, a beekeeper must administer treatment to his colonies. The innovation in this area can



© Игор Чусь - AdobeStock

sometimes give interesting results such as a heat treatment. Since varroa mites are more resistant to lower temperatures than bees, it is "enough" to heat the whole

beehive to get rid of the parasites. One of the Pollinium's partner beekeepers is testing this process.

– Beehive history –

Aphids and mealybugs: greedy allies!



© maykal / DragonFly - AdobeStock

In some heavily wooded areas, bees can find an odd source of nectar during the period of dry weather. A source which, for once, is not a flower, but an animal: aphids or cochineals.

These colonies of sucking insects pump sap from the plants they eat but they also release large amounts of it after digesting it. This is called honeydew.

It can sometimes be seen as translucent, sticky drops on tree leaves. As it is very sweet, this honeydew is a delight for the bees who come to harvest it and take it to the hive.

This is how fir honey is produced, which is therefore honeydew honey.



- Bees and men -

Pollinating the world

Foraging is going from flower to flower in order to collect nectar. To fill her crop, each forager visits an average of 400 flowers before returning to the hive. Since she specialises in one and the same flower species to be more efficient, a bee will carry pollen from one flower to another and thus promote its fertilisation.

A bee's visit to the flowers allows her to bring nectar back to the hive - a daily routine that corresponds to a short-term challenge. What a bee doesn't know is that by pollinating, she ensures the renewal of the floral resource for the future generations of bees. It's like a long-term challenge that relates to the logic of sustainable development. Not only does collecting nectar NOT harm a flower but it,

actually, benefits it. The action of bees does not generate any negative impact on her environment. On the contrary, it is beneficial for all the stakeholders.

If we list the beneficial impacts and the harmful impacts of our various human activities, then we understand the root causes of our environmental, ecological and climate crisis. Our social and environmental "responsibility" (CSR) is not just an empty word.

Henri Duchemin,

a beekeeper, a sociologist and a founder of Mèlilot Consulting
For more info, please click on <http://melilotconsulting.com>



© Daylight Photo - AdobeStock

- Beehive history -

Show me your pass!

As it happens in front of the school on a back-to-school day, it can sometimes get a bit busy at the beehive entrance gate. Especially if the cautious beekeeper restricts the access to avoid looting and untimely visits. Each beehive is, in fact, equipped with an entrance gate which limits the movement. A beekeeper can thus decide to open it wide, or even remove it altogether, when the entries of nectar and pollen are abundant. The bees can then go out and in very easily and quickly. However, when food is scarce, bees from the surround-

ing apiaries are tempted to come and help themselves with their neighbours' honey: this is called looting, which can cause serious fights. To avoid this kind of intrusion, a beekeeper may decide to limit the entrance thanks to a system of serrated slots and a sliding metal strip. A trick which, of course, will slow down the flow, but which will also allow the guard bees to more easily control the identity of the entrants. And beware of fraudsters who do not have the right olfactory "pass"! They are thrown unceremoniously ...



Brief

Proverbs and sayings

« A bee, a little insect capable of making money »

Pef

BEE-COPS

The France Info site spoke about a very original experiment. In Senegal, bees are used to guard the Kassel mangrove, which is threatened by deforestation.

Therefore, the Poumolindiana association decided to set up beehives there to dissuade those who come and cut trees. One thing is sure - there will be guaranteed stings for offenders!



40 000

is the quantity, in tonnes, of honey consumed annually in France. French apiaries only produce between 9,000 and 20,000 tonnes, depending on the year.