



# Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité



Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Spring 2022

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.



## - Beehive history -

### Pollen, seeds of life



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Being very rich in protein, pollen is also used as seasonal food in spring, which allows the reconstitution of tissues as well

as the proper functioning of the hypopharyngeal glands of worker bees (i.e. glands which are secreting royal jelly).

## - Beehive history -

### Queen, are you there?



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At the end of winter, a beekeeper will make his traditional "spring visit". During this first visit of the year, he will inspect if all is going well, if something is missing and if the colony is ready to face better days. One of the tasks on his agenda will be to search for the queen. This part is essential, because without a queen, the colony is doomed to death. Therefore, he'll examine the frames one by one to look for a bee that is much larger than the others... With a little luck and practice, this will be relatively easy, but if he is not careful enough, the operation can turn into a headache! That's because queens are shy and they tend to blend into the crowd and avoid the beekeeper...

If he doesn't find her, he will look if there are any fresh eggs at the bottom of the cells. Because that's a clear sign that the queen is there, but hiding. In that case, he can be certain to see her next time!



Bees are best known for making and consuming honey, but pollen is another vital part of the hive life. Without pollen, there would be no breeding and so, no colony! Found in the heart of flowers, this substance is, in fact, the staple food for the larvae which will later become hard-working foragers.

From the 4th to the 6th day of their life, bee larvae grow in their cells thanks to a mush of pollen, which the adult bees use to feed them. Because of this, pollen is stored at the edge of the brood nest, while honey is stored outside the frames.

Actually, the foragers bring pollen to the hive along with nectar. They do so by turning it into small balls which they transport on their hind legs, thanks to their "pollen comb". When they dive into a flower to collect nectar, pollen attaches to their hair-like structures and they only have to "comb" these hairs to create these small balls of pollen.



## - Bees and men -

### Committing without destroying

A bee colony can be compared to an industry: bees collect natural raw materials (floral nectar, pollen, water and propolis) and turn them into the products of use (honey, bee bread, thermal regulation and internal pharmacy) to their society. This act can be defined as a need to ensure their survival (food, energy, health protection) as well as the prosperity of the hive (raising young, development and swarming). Since bees don't have any superfluous or artificial needs - there's no waste or overconsumption in their little world.

The "predation" of a bee on the floral and natural system around the hive is very real. But it is compensated by the pollination

which guarantees the renewal of the floral resources for the future generations of bees. Actually, the environment only benefits from the bees' activities. Without bees, many flowers would not be able to produce as many fruits and seeds which are essential to their survival.

"Committing without destroying" is the lesson of the bees. A major issue, which is likely to significantly transform the strategy of all our companies.

#### Henri Duchemin,

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



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## - Beehive history -

### 2022, the year of yellow

As it is not always easy to find a queen in a colony of 40,000 bees, the beekeeper can "mark" her. This means that he will put a tiny, colourful spot on her chest so that she can be spotted more easily. But he won't use just any hue! Thanks to a widespread colour code, beekeepers can easily determine the queen's birth year: blue, white, yellow, red and green... they all correspond to particular years. 2022 will, for example, be the year of the yellow queens. This colour is used for the years ending in 2 and 7.

To distinguish a queen from other bees, an experienced beekeeper will use a specific marker, a suitable varnish or a sticky pad to mark the queen's back while holding her very gently. He will then wait for a few seconds before re-introducing her in the hive in order to allow the smell of the product to evaporate. This could indeed blur the identification of the queen by her daughters who could mistaken her for an intruder and kill her.



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# Brief

## Proverbs and sayings

*«The happiness of the bee and the dolphin is to exist. For a man, it is to know that and to wonder at it»*

Jacques-Yves Cousteau

## GREAT NATIONAL CAUSE



The National Assembly, in its resolution n°678 taken on 7 October 2021, invites the government to declare the safeguarding of bees "great national cause 2022" and invites it to reflect on the development of a plan to fight against the Asian hornet.

