



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité



Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Autumn 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 -

A fluctuating lifespan

How long does a bee live? This question, which beekeepers are regularly asked, is not as simple as it seems. Depending on the season in which a bee is born, she may enjoy a relatively long life.

If we count the beginning of her life from the moment the larva emerges from its pupa to become the insect we know, a "basic" bee lives between 13 and 38 days if she is born in summer. If, on the other hand, a bee is born in the spring, her life span will increase: it is estimated to be between 30 and 60 days.

The luckiest bees, those born at the end of summer and beginning of autumn, are also those that will have to face the harshest conditions. Their lives can last up to 140 days. This means that their life is more than three times longer than that of summer bees!

Programmed to ensure the survival of the swarm during the coldest months - when the queen hardly lays any eggs



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- they decline in the spring with the arrival of the next generation.

The queen is the oldest member of the

colony. She can live for several years, usually between three and four years, but sometimes even longer.

- Beehive history -

Ivy: discreet, but effective and precious!



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It wraps itself around tree trunks, climbs on fences or clings to walls. Ivy is so common that we no longer notice it. However, bees pay a lot of attention to it, especially in early autumn. The plant is poisonous to humans, but it is a very precious food source for bees. From September to November, when most nectar and pollen resources have dried up, ivy offers them the opportunity for a final harvest.

Ivy is a honey plant par excellence and it flowers in autumn. Its flowers, very light green umbels with a yellow tinge, are a godsend for our insects, who come to feed on them, gathering their provisions for the winter.





– Bees and men –

Thinking with bees

One thing is sure, we are all fascinated by bees. They are in fashion, we find them in the headlines, they are a source of great inspiration but also an object of concern.

However, this phenomenon is not new: it goes back to prehistoric times! As soon as the first humans were able to taste honey (when refined sugar didn't exist yet!), they did everything they could to obtain it. This is how a long relationship between humans and honey bees started.

At first, the "honey gatherers" looked for wild colonies settled in the trees and crevices to obtain honey at their own risk. As with agriculture, humans then

"domesticated" bees by creating the first hives, probably from tree trunks or perhaps from basketry or pottery. The first evidence of an elaborate beekeeping practice comes from Ancient Egypt.

Since the dawn of time, all civilisations have developed an extraordinary relationship with bees. They have been seen as an image of the human society, a divine power, a subject of philosophy, a mystery of nature, a political symbol...

Since time immemorial, bees have given us much more than just honey- they have given us a way of thinking about the world!



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Henri Duchemin,

beekeeper, sociologist and founder of Méliot Consulting

For more info, please go to: <http://melilotconsulting.com>

– News from Pollinium –

Jean-Pierre, a committed beekeeper



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Jean-Pierre, our partner from Picardy in France, followed an unusual path. In 2011, he left his job as a computer engineer in a big group to start market gardening and raising laying hens. He also set up a few beehives on his land, totally unaware of the fact that beekeeping would become his main activity. Because a few years later, Pollinium asked him to take care of one of its beehives in the Hauts de France, then a second one...

One thing leading to another, he was also asked to manage Pollinium's Parisian apiaries. And that's when the question of continuing with market gardening arose: "Beekeeping and market gardening don't mix well in terms

of timing. When I was with the bees, I wasn't with my crops," he explains. So he chose to stop market gardening in 2021 to devote himself solely to bees. Today, he takes the utmost care of 120 hives, 45 of which belong to Pollinium.

And because Jean-Pierre is also convinced of the need to make as many people as possible aware of the need to protect nature, he asked the local authorities to plant nectariferous plants and to involve citizens in the project. On his side, he installed a special hive with transparent walls to allow school children to lean about bees during the summer season.

Newsflash

Buckingham Palace: bees in mourning

According to the Daily Mail, the five hives at Buckingham Palace have been officially informed of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The beekeeper in charge of the apiary hung a black ribbon on each hive and spoke to the insects. "I drape the hives with a black ribbon and a knot. [...]"

He knocked on each hive before declaring: "The mistress is dead, but don't go away. Your new master will be good to you," he told the British newspaper. So Beetish...

DROUGHT AND BEEKEEPING

This summer, bees suffered from the lack of water and the high temperatures. The drought quickly limited or even eliminated the sources of nectar (flowers) that are essential to them. Beekeepers also had to supply them with water and supplement their nutritional intake with syrup.