



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité

Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Winter 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 -

Asian Hornet: Be Vigilant!



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Asian hornet, the one who became the number one enemy of bees, arrived in France in 2004. 3cm long, it feeds on various insects, including bees. He hunts them at the entrance of the hive, causing very serious damage within the colonies.

Winter is the ideal time to locate hornet nests. These spheres, which are built high up, most often in the trees, are then clearly visible. To minimise the progression of the predator and destroy these nests, a national reporting platform, which is accessible to all, has been created. Thanks to the <http://www.frelonsasiatiques.fr> www.frelonsasiatiques.fr, anyone can report an individual asian hornet or their nests which will then be removed by professionals. It is not recommended to try to get rid of them by yourself: the bite of the Asian hornet is very painful!

- Beehive history -

Wax in circular economy mode

Winter months generally allow a beekeeper to prepare his equipment for the following season. Besides assembling hives, frames and other various crafts, a beekeeper may transform the old honey combs into beautiful brand new frames. Because beekeepers regularly remove the blackest sheets of wax from the hive (those which generally contained the brood) to replace them with clean sheets of embossed wax. The old frames are then heated according to different systems (in a bain-marie or in a solar wax melter for example) to dissociate impurities and wax. The latter is collected, sorted into "loaves" and can then be transformed into standard sheets and frames that will line the combs of the hive during the following season. It's like virtuous recycling for both the bees and the beekeeper.



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Wax is an extremely valuable product, and bees need a lot of energy to produce it. Between their 12th and 19th day, they work as wax makers, secreting wax thanks to eight specific glands,

which are located under their abdomen. The task is tedious because each wax scale weighs only 0.8 mg, which means that it takes 1,250,000 to produce one kilogram... And to produce that kilo, wax

makers need 8 kg of honey! Once their mission is accomplished, the glands atrophy and bees move on to their final stage - they become foragers.





– Bees and men –

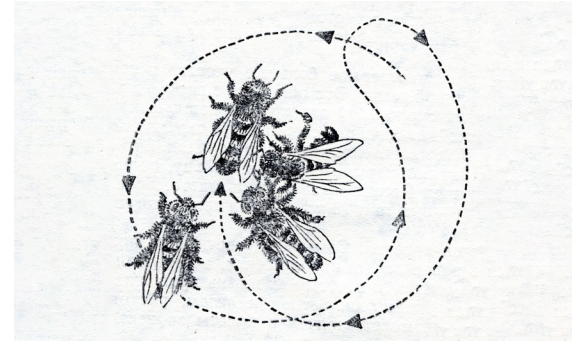
Bee language vs. human language

Linguist Emile BENVENISTE was intrigued by the waggle dance which honey bees use to inform other forager bees about the whereabouts of the nectar-rich flowers. Unlike humans, bees don't use words to convey their messages but a precise and very operational choreography. Now, can this form of language be compared to human language? According to Mr Benveniste, "the message of the bees does not call for any response, except for behaviour, which is not a reply in itself. Bees don't know the concept of dialogue which is a basic feature of the human language". What bees lack in is reciprocal communication.

So, bees do communicate with each other,

but not in the human sense of the term. The waggle dance, despite its precision, is more like an order. It will lead to a "mechanical" behaviour likely to optimise the harvest.

What we gather is that bees, despite the perfection of their organisation, cannot be completely compared to humans. Their knowledge and the fascinating functioning of the colony allow us to better understand what is specific to humans. Thus our ability to develop a real dialogue and give meaning to our exchanges contribute (or should contribute?) to a better humanity.



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

News from Pollinium

A structuring year for Pollinium



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With its 300 hives scattered in some 60 locations across France, Pollinium is showing good progress: 20% extra per year in four years and Pollinium wants to go further. "We want to conquer new territories, like Orléans, Nîmes or Saint-Étienne for several reasons. First, because we are proud of what we do and the values we transmit. And also because we need to develop our volumes to establish the company's activity."

One of its fundamentals, helping the world of beekeeping, has resulted in partnerships with 18 beekeepers. The team has also recently prospered with the arrival of Camille, a young, talented sandwich student who will be in charge of communication. Pollinium has also acquired new, larger and more suitable premises. Located in Fareins (01), within an artisanal zone in the countryside, the new premises are big enough to store the

equipment, allow honey extraction and potting and there are also offices. A "transit" apiary will be set up nearby to facilitate the work. Amongst others, Pollinium invites you to explore its freshly redesigned website (www.pollinium.fr)

Finally, our VSE has embarked on an R&D process with a connected hive project which will enrich our knowledge of the world of bees. This is because we still have a lot to learn about how to protect them better.

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Newsflash

Proverbs and sayings

« *One who handles honey,
licks his fingers* »

75%

of the French population regularly eats honey, which represents 45,000 tonnes of honey per year.