



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité



- Beehive history -

Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Spring 2023

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 -

In spring, a visit is a must!

This visit is not to be skipped under any circumstances: the famous "spring visit" is a "must" for a beekeeper. Since the bees cannot venture outside in winter, they will start going out as soon as the weather gets milder and the days longer. That's when the beekeeper has to inspect the hive and see if anything needs to be fixed.

During the first visit of the year, a beekeeper will schematically inspect three essential elements: the presence of sufficient provisions as well as the provisions of the queen and the brood (eggs). At the same time, he will also examine the general state of the hive, clean the floor, remove dead bees, etc.

In spring, it is essential that the colony still has plenty of food to ensure the brood rearing. If supplies are lacking, the beekeeper may provide the sugar paste (if the risk of frost persists) or the syrup. During his visit, he will inspect each comb separately to see if the queen has started to lay eggs. This is the



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best moment to get to see the mother of all bees, as the colony is not yet too developed. He can then "tag" her with the colour of her year of birth if he hasn't already done so. This will later be useful, so that he can locate her more easily. And if there's no queen and no brood in

the combs, he will have to act quickly to save his proteges: either by providing them with a new queen or by grouping them with a nearby colony.

Dandelion, a springtime treasure



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It is the bees' yellow treasure in spring. Although not always appreciated by humans, dandelions are a delicacy for our proteges. While we try to get rid of them from our lawns, bees will look for them diligently, craving for the dandelion's nectar and its nutritious pollen. Should we, therefore, try to change our view of this common plant? At the end of winter, a dandelion represents a great source of life for bees. Each dandelion flower can produce between 200 and 500 kilograms of nectar and between 100 and 150 kg of pollen per hectare. Each flower, in fact, consists of a group of small yellow flowers on a capitulum, which bees can visit several times (their production of nectar and pollen doesn't necessarily happen at the same time).

Dandelion is used in the composition of many spring honeys and it makes them crystallise easily.





– Bees and men –

Bees and retirement

If pensions are in the news these days, how do bees look at it? Do our bee workers benefit from a pension at the end of their hard-working career? Is the drudgery of their work compensated by an early rest?

These questions are about the difference between a man and an animal.

Writing is a first major distinctive sign. Transcribing our ideas, feelings, techniques... allow us to learn and pass our knowledge on to other generations. No animal can do that. For a bee, the relationship to time is only part of its immediate lifespan, she is not aware of the past or the future. She will not ask herself about the retirement, because she sees her own destiny through the destiny of her colony.

The other specificity of man is his Promethean dimension, which means that a human being needs to surpass himself, his taste for effort and his desire to transform the world. Animals are rather focused on the living in the present moment, feeding and reproducing. A bee will only concentrate on what is useful to her: other insects, floral system, seasons, smells, honey... Her activity is limited to her own vital needs and those of her colony (which is characteristic for social insects).

When it comes to bees, instead of using the word "retirement", we should use the word "withdrawal". When a bee is no longer able to carry out her functions, she will leave the hive to die in the meadow.



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

News from Pollinium

Dominique Alsberghe, a happy beekeeper!



© Pollinium

From the terrace of the farm he restored in Saint-Eustache (74), Dominique Alsberghe shows us the piece of land which will soon be covered with lavender. "On it," he said, "I've already planted plenty of melliferous plants. Lavender will be a real bonus for my bees! Established as a professional beekeeper since 2013, this 40-year-old takes great care of his proteges and those of Pollinium. He is the one who manages the apiaries of our company in Savoie and Haute-Savoie (about 53 hives), in addition to his own 200 apiaries. Since he is a true nature lover, this job fascinates him.

However, nothing predisposed him to become a beekeeper. A pastry chef by training, Dominique Alsberghe first put his talents to use in bakery-pastry before becoming a food product representative in the restaurant industry. Until the day when passing by a small apiary, he got stung by curiosity

about bees. On his birthday, he is enrolled for an associative beekeeping course as a present. The activity seduces him so much that he decides to start working in the sector, supported by the Pôle emploi (the French Job Centre). In 2013, he starts with thirty hives, while simultaneously renovating his house...

Ten years later, Dominique Alsberghe doesn't regret his choice in the slightest. On good years, he can harvest up to three tonnes of honey, which he sells in various shops in the Annecy region. He also sells it directly, in a quaint little shop which he set up in his home. Don't hesitate to come and "forage" at the Rucher de Saint-Eustache, he will welcome you with a smile!

Newsflash



A VACCINE FOR BEES

A recent report broadcast on France2 informed us that the American researchers are working on the development of a vaccine for bees to help fight against the American foulbrood. This disease is fatal to the bee colonies, it is highly contagious and it decimates millions of hives worldwide every year. The vaccine is mixed with sugar paste so that it can be given to the insects.