



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité



Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Autumn 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 -

The guardians who watch over the treasure

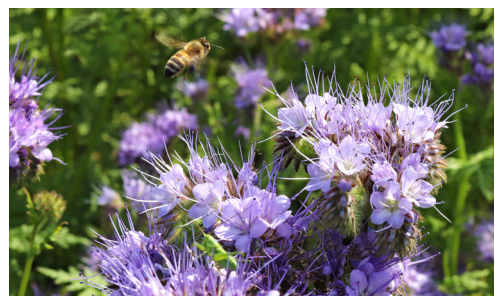


At the end of summer, the bee colonies have collected enough honey for the winter. These provisions must, however, be protected from all predators: this is the role of the guardians. A guardian is just a bee. Each member of the colony takes on this role between their twelfth and twenty-fifth day. Positioned at the entrance of the hive, the guardians watch out for any individual who does not have the correct olfactory passport! It is, in fact, the smell of the colony that serves as the identity document. Beside the stinger (which will not only be fatal for the enemy but also for the bee herself), the guardians can also bite the intruders, redirect ants, or chase away other unwelcome insects (the bees from other colonies, wasps,



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etc.). In the event of a greater threat, the guardian will sound the alarm and call her sisters for help so that, together, they can save their priceless honey and nest.



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- Beehive history - Phacelia, an ally of beekeeping and agriculture

Phacelia (*phacelia tanacetifolia*) is one of the best-known honey plants. Its blue-purple flowers, which bloom from spring to autumn, attract bees like magnets. Native to northern Mexico and southern California, it produces very fragrant flowers which are also rich in sugar and nectar. Phacelia honey is, therefore, very fragrant.

Besides beekeeping, the flower is also important for agriculture. Phacelia makes an excellent green manure which, when planted over large areas, can eliminate less desirable weeds such as quack grass. Its ability to attract insects that feed on aphids can help reduce aphids in the surrounding plantations. Also valuable in arboriculture, it may reduce the mortality of young pear and apple trees and promote their growth. Appreciated by trichogramma wasps, which are also used to fighting against certain pests (the codling moth or the corn borer, for example), phacelia helps to increase their populations.

Phacelia is very pretty to boot!



- Bees and men -

Protecting the treasure

Bees live off honey. It's the product of their hard work and their communal efforts. It's also their most valuable treasure because it protects them from famine and cold. Over the years, the stock of honey will grow and renew itself for the benefit of new generations of bees. Honey is preserved naturally and sustainably in safety.

Like all treasure, this one is coveted by multiple predators: mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc., not to mention the worst of thieves - beekeepers. Bees hide their precious reserves in the heart of the hive but, above all, exercise continuous surveillance which

they entrust to guardian bees: there is no question of being robbed of the essentials.

Companies must also jealously guard their treasures: capital and reserve funds, means of production and raw materials, know-how and patents, intangible and human resources. Equity capital, security systems, patents, employment contracts, etc., are all means of safeguarding what is essential, with the same vigilance as bees in a hive.

Henry Duchemin,
beekeeper, sociologist and founder
of Mélilot Consulting
For more info, please go to: <http://melilotconsulting.com>



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News from Pollinium

Samuel Jaffre, committed beekeeper



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Samuel became passionate about beekeeping when he was a child. But it was only in 2016, when he moved to a house in the heart of Beaujolais, that he unleashed his family's passion. Now 48, he owns no less than one hundred hives, forty-four of which belong to Pollinium, for about thirty partner companies located between Belleville and Villefranche-en-Beaujolais.

"I started with a few hives, for the pleasure of seeing bees and sharing honey with friends and family," he explains. And then, I got into the game..." Today, Samuel also produces his own swarms. In high season, he likes to harvest once a week to produce monofloral honey such as acacia, lime or chestnut.

While caring for his bees, he is also testing the power of a magnetiser on one of his apiaries.

Samuel moonlights as a voluntary GDSA (Apicultural Health Defense Group) referent for the detection of the Asian hornet and is the deputy mayor of his town, which is home to 1,350 inhabitants. "I enjoy working for the community," he admits. Samuel likes to keep active, so he is also a territorial agent for the City of Villefranche-en-Beaujolais where he manages the sanitation of forty-eight public buildings.

41

Newsflash

Proverbs and sayings

The busy bee has no time for sorrow.

William Blake

MUMMIFIED

The French journal Sciences et Avenir wrote about an impressive discovery in Portugal. Millions of mummified bees, dating from the time of the pharaohs, have been unearthed by the team of the palaeontologist Carlos Carvalho. From the Eucera species, they are almost 3,000 years old.