



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité



Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Summer 2024

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 search of nectar

As soon as the weather permits, the colony's objective is to stock up on provisions, which in bee's terms mean honey and pollen. An army of bees will set off in search of the flower nectar, the main ingredient in making honey. However, not all bees are chosen to carry out this noble task. Only the foragers (the oldest bees in the hive) will be allowed to undertake the task. The choice of plants to be foraged is not made by chance either. The scent, colour and taste of the flowers will influence the choice of these pollinating insects, which use their antennae to smell the flowers. If the flower suits them, they will plunge their tongues into the heart of the plant and suck out the sweet liquid hidden inside - nectar.

The nectar is then stored in their crop, where it will begin its transformation. At the same time, the pollen grains



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that fall onto the insects as they draw up nectar are meticulously combed and stored in the form of small balls which the bees attach to their hind legs. Once loaded with nectar and pollen, the foragers will return to the

hive, drop off their load and then immediately return to work!

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– Beehive history –

Chestnut, a majestic ally



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Found almost everywhere in France, except on very chalky or clayey soils, a chestnut tree is a bee's ally. It provides them with nectar, pollen and honeydew in abundance. These trees, which can grow up to 35 metres, flower quite intensively from the beginning of June to the end of July, depending on the climate and altitude. They're said to be monoecious: the same tree grows both male and female flowers. Male flowers will come out in the form of long, highly fragrant, yellowish catkins of up to 20 cm in length. Female flowers are more discreet, they usually form a group of two or three flowers at the base of the catkins.

For bees, chestnut honeydew is particularly welcome when flowers get scarce because of the hot weather. Chestnut honey is known for its brown colour and full-bodied flavour.



– Bees and men –

Symbolic and sacred honey

According to the Bible, the Promised Land is where milk and honey flow in abundance. In the Koran, honey is considered a remedy for the body, while religion is the remedy for the soul. The Greeks, on the other hand, sacrificed honey to their gods, and nectar was the drink of the Olympian gods.

Honey is definitely not a product like any other. Along with milk, it is the only food produced by animals to ensure the survival of their offspring. This undoubtedly explains the symbolic and even sacred dimension of honey in all the great religions. And not just in the religions that are close to us. The Mayans, Egyptians, Hindus and Buddhists also see honey as an important religious symbol.

Honey is present in many rituals. Hindus recommend giving honey to newborn babies.

Early Christians would cover a baby in honey to ward off evil spirits.

Honey is also part of wedding rituals. In Hungary, Egypt and in some other African countries, honey is given to the newly-weds. It's true that honey is reputed to be an aphrodisiac!

And because it doesn't go sour with time, honey also symbolises immortality, which is why we can find it in many funeral rites. For instance, it has been widely used to embalm corpses. Along with wax and propolis, honey was one of the secret ingredients used to preserve mummies.

Even today, honey represents a universal symbol in every culture and every country in the world.



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Newsflash

QUEENS, THE KING AND DAVID BECKHAM

We already knew that the King has adopted several queens. Charles III, crowned head of the United Kingdom, is in fact a beekeeper in his spare time. More surprisingly, ex-footballer David Beckham has also taken up beekeeping in Oxfordshire. The two recently exchanged a jar of honey.

News from Pollinium

A "standby" apiary for Pollinium



© Pollinium

Since April, Pollinium has had a new apiary in Fareins, in the Ain region in France. It's a rather special apiary which serves as a "standby hive" in case of need. The swarms ready to produce are kept here. "When a company places an order with us, all I have to do is pick up the required number of hives from this apiary", explains Dominique Parriaud, Pollinium's manager. Previously, these colonies were scattered in different locations, more or less far apart. Now that they're merged, the employees of the company have to travel less (Pollinium's premises are

300 metres away), and it's easier to monitor the bees and deal with things quickly if necessary.

