



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité



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Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Spring 2021

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 -

Flowery meadows don't always mean "beesy times"

Despite abundant flowers in the meadows and on the trees, spring can sometimes be a very difficult period for bees. Indeed, long weeks of rain or the sudden return of cold can be particularly harmful to them. Since a bee cannot fly in the rain and will not leave the hive when it's below 51.8°F she is then, de facto, confined.

However, it is during this period that the colony will work on its survival: the queen will start to lay frantically and it is necessary at the same time to feed the larvae, enlarge the laying space and maintain a viable temperature for the small ones (95°F approximately).

What to do if the external food resources are no longer accessible for weeks and if the internal reserves are not yet sufficient to hold out for very long? How do you keep the temperature at 95°F when it's freezing outside?

The effects of climate change directly impact beehives, sending them misleading signals. The hot periods at the start of the



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season encourage them to advance and the rainy or cold spells that follow bring this momentum to a halt. Exceptionally, the brood will rot because it cannot be heated and reared. This becomes the

source of new problems, such as diseases, if the beekeeper does not intervene in time.

- Beehive history -

Mamanoutai ?



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The bees will never be fond of the song "Ritornello" by Stromae, Papaoutai, but they could invent another one "Mamanoutai".

Because in spring, it sometimes happens that a colony wakes up without a mother. When the queen dies in winter, it means that she was unable to continue her line. We then say that the hive is orphan.

The beekeeper usually does not need to open the hive to know that the bees have lost their mother: there are many telltale signs to let him know. Bees no longer take in pollen, they fly aimlessly past the entrance or hover above the landing board and are particularly aggressive.

When he opens the hive, he will notice that they do not hold in place and that they are noisier than usual. Final confirmation: there are no more eggs.





– Bees and men –

Humility in the face of uncertainty

Honey harvests can vary significantly from year to year. Despite all the care given to bees, some years can turn out catastrophic. That means that even the most prosperous and healthier colonies will fail to carry large stocks of honey. The fact is that this performance is also influenced by the factors external to the hive: the blooming of the flowers can vary from year to year, as well as the health status of bees which more or less depends on agricultural and cultural practices around the apiary. Weather conditions also play an important role - whether the flowers will bloom earlier or not or whether it will be rainy or dry, or even scorching. With an increasingly capricious climate, sometimes not in keeping with the usual rhythm of the seasons, honey

harvest is subject to more and more frequent hazards.

Even for a well-organised and dynamic company, the state of the social climate and the economic climate will also have an impact on its prosperity.

In either case, the health crisis reminds us that uncertainty is the rule and certainties are exceptions. A form of modesty and humility is necessary both for beekeepers and entrepreneurs.

Henri Duchemin,

a beekeeper, a sociologist and a founder of Mèlilot Consulting
For more info, please click on <http://melilotconsulting.com>



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– Beehive history –

Slurp the syrup!

To stimulate a colony or to provide for its needs, the beekeeper may decide to give his bees some nourishing syrup in spring. Made up of sugar and water or honey and water, it is meant to prepare the bees for an upcoming honeydew. As a preventive measure, the beekeeper does it about a month and a half before the possible date of a honeydew. The goal is to reach that date with the strongest possible colony. Thus, there will be more foragers to look for the nectar.

When all goes well, everyone can benefit from such an action. On the other hand, if the weather conditions deteriorate and the bees can no longer go out on the target date, the idea of the nourishing syrup can quickly turn into a disaster. There will, then, be too many bees inside the hive, creating a risk of famine or repeated swarming as soon as the sun comes out or if there is a health risk.



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Brief

Proverbes et dictons

« *Life is the flower for which love is the honey.* »

Victor Hugo

PESTICIDES

An Ariège beekeeper who lost 75 beehives (two million bees) in 2018 following the spreading of a pesticide in a neighbouring field, has just won his fight against the chemicals giant BASF. The court in Foix (Ariège) dismissed the German multinational for its action against the beekeeper.

Since then, the offending product has lost its approval, has been prohibited for sale since November 2019 and its use has been forbidden from July 30, 2020.

