


APRIL 2010

Taranaki Beekeeping Club

What's happening in Taranaki

Greetings ! We are rapidly coming to the end of the season and there is not much coming into the hives now by way of nectar. There is a little trickle maybe from the autumn flowering gums or the Hoheria or Lacebark with its showy white flowers.

Your extraction should have finished and your honey stored in the larder. Extracted frames should have been dried off by the bees by now and the super of frames should be in a cool, dry, draughty place with adequate protection from the ravages of rats and mice. The cool situation will deter the wax moth from attacking your valuable comb but you can assist by placing each box on a sheet of newspaper in the stack. Remember it takes about 7 grams of honey to produce 1 gram of wax so your honey yield will be higher next season if you have combs in your frames rather than foundation.

Now is the time to discard old black frames, damaged frames or those with a lot of drone cells. Varroa breed much faster in drone comb so don't give them any encouragement to stay in your hive. You should have your strips in the hive now as close to the brood nest as you can with one strip to three or four frames of brood.

In general, you should have only the two brood boxes on the hive now or three if it is a large colony and needs the third box. The top or middle box should have nearly all if not all frames filled with capped honey for the bees to use in the coming months. That should see them through until the Spring flowers start to open but if you leave them short, you may have to feed them in the Spring, which means a lot of fiddling about with feeders and sugar syrup.

I have been assisting in the transport of bees to Canada over the past few weeks. It seems to be an excellent idea to send them on a holiday after working so hard for us. There is now little they can do here and the Canadians are willing to give them a good home so they will be able to enjoy a new lease of life and build up the strength of the colony as the Spring turns into Summer. So it would appear to be a win/win situation all round.

See you at the meeting on Mon. 6.30pm. Plunket Rooms, NP.

Next club meeting

19th April 2010

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

Western honey bee **(*Apis mellifera*)**

Scientific classification
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Hymenoptera
Suborder: Apocrita
Superfamily: Apoidea
Family: Apidae
Subfamily: Apinae
Tribe: Apini
Genus: *Apis*
Species: ***A. mellifera***
Binomial name ***Apis mellifera***
Linnaeus, 1758

The European honey bee is the third insect, after the fruit fly and the mosquito, to have its genome mapped. According to the scientists who analysed its genetic code, the honey bee originated in Africa and spread to Europe in two ancient migrations.

They have also discovered that the number of genes in the honey bees related to smell outnumber those for taste, and they have fewer genes for immunity than the fruit fly and the mosquito.

The genome sequence revealed several groups of genes, particularly the genes related to circadian rhythms, were closer to vertebrates than other insects. Genes related to enzymes that control other genes were also vertebrate-like.

What is Bee Pollen?

Pollen is the sole food of the bee larvae (young bees) and because of this nutritious diet, they grow to over 1000 times their original size within a few days. Pollen is collected by the worker bee as she visits flowers and she manipulates the pollen into "pollen baskets" on her back legs. Bees normally work one type of flower at a time, which fulfills the plant-life's need to receive pollen from other plants of the same species. Pollen will also stick to the bee's body and will be scraped off on each subsequent flower they visit.

How can it benefit the customer?

"Pollen is a completely natural and extremely nutritional food. Many of our customers have found it beneficial in treating tiredness, lowered resistance to illness, loss of appetite, weakness and depression, even premature aging and disturbances of the digestive system."

Many customers are familiar with bee pollen, due mainly to the well advertised product called Potentiated Bee Pollen. This is a marketing term that a company uses to describe the process used to "break down" the hard outer core of the pollen, thereby making it more potent as the body can absorb all nutrients of bee pollen. Whether this is true or not is anyone's guess – their process is obviously "secret". Still, lots of people are hooked and use potentiated bee pollen over normal pollen because of this so-called added-value. After all, pollen is pollen; collected by the honey bee for food for the bee larvae. Clever, because it sets their pollen apart from all the other pollen and they can then charge their higher prices because of this perceived greater value of their "potentiated" bee pollen.

"Did you know that pollen granules have been used by the first ever Olympic athletes for extra energy and vitality, and has been known for its amazing properties in ancient Egypt, China, India and Persia. Back then people collected bee pollen from the hive just as we do today – so you don't need to pay the inflated prices of potentiated bee pollen to get the benefits of bee pollen."

Our bee pollen is fresh; collected within the last honey season so our bee pollen contains all of its nutritional values. Bee pollen can help people with allergies to "wind-borne" bee pollen from flowers because it works on building up your body's natural immunity."

We recommend our customers use the granules over the capsules, simply because it is better value for money and they really should take at least a tablespoon of bee pollen to be beneficial.

Bee Pollen Smoothie

Blend the following until smooth
One banana (with additional fruit if available)
Five almonds (optional)
One tablespoon of bee pollen
One tablespoon of manuka honey (or active manuka honey)
½ cup of natural unsweetened yoghurt
½ cup of natural juice (like orange) or ½ cup of low fat milk
Five ice cubes

Warning: There is always the small possibility of an allergic reaction. Because bee pollen has almost every single nutrient known to man, some people are allergic, especially people suffering from asthma. We recommend customers start off by using a very small amount of pollen (just a few granules) and build up over time to about a tablespoon. Allergic reactions to bee pollen can be upset stomach (we recommend people take bee pollen with food), wheezing, or rash.

Beesper colony
45,000 – 70,000 plus
Size of eggs
1.6mm
Length of worker larva
1.6mm
Size of adult worker honey bee
1.2 cm
Development period required for queen (egg to adult)
16 days
Development period required for drones and workers
23 days
Visits by nurse bees to each egg/larva until capped
110,000
Worker cells per inch of honeycomb
5
Worker cells per full depth frame
680
Eggs queen can lay in one day
1500 – 2000
Sperm queen receives during mating
5-6 million
Number of flowers bees visit to fill their honey stomachs
1000
Flight speed on bee
19 kph
Wing beats per second
250 cycles per second
Wing beats, buzzing
400-500 per second
Temperatures at which bees no longer fly
10oC
Temperature at which bees start fanning
35oC
Temperature at which bees cluster for brood warmth
14oC
Temperature of the hive
36oC
Number of nerve cells in bee brain
860,000
Age of the bee species
19 million years

Varroa Strips

Supplies of Varroa strips for the Autumn treatment have arrived. If you need strips please contact me with amounts needed. I also have some Apivar strips left over from spring treatment

Depending on amount the strips ordered, they can be posted, picked up from the Saturday market or dropped off if you are near by

Stephen
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