



DECEMBER 2008

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



What's happening in Taranaki

At the last Beekeepers meeting it was decided to have a FIELD DAY on SUNDAY 18th. Jan '09. at the Club Hives at 150 Egmont Road at 1.30pm.

We will be inspecting the hives to see what progress is being made. All hives will probably need more room for storage of nectar coming into the hives in Jan and early Feb if the sunny weather doesn't take too much moisture from the soil. We have been promised another dry Summer by the forecasters but usually that is good for Beekeepers.

We have there three hives: the far one had a drone laying queen in it but she was dispatched and we should see a new queen laying to produce a good quantity of workers to gather the coming honey flow. They will require more room to store that honey for the Winter.

The middle hive has an old queen in it and was riddled with Queen cells last Field Day so it will be interesting to see if there is a new queen there or if it has gone queenless. As there were a large number of workers there they may need more room or if it has swarmed several times there may be only a handful of bees left or a new queen may have installed herself and will be producing a new colony.

They may require another super or it may be an opportunity to remove some old combs that have seen better days and need to be replaced.

The near hive had a new queen last Autumn so she should be in full fling. They will probably require more room and it will be a good opportunity to get some foundation drawn out during the honey flow by an experienced team. They may be suffering from excessive heat too as there will be a large quantity of them so we will demonstrate how to increase the air conditioning of the hive without inviting robbing by other bees or wasps.

Wasps will be become a problem from now until Winter so we will discuss the ways of reducing their invasion as they can easily rob the honey, kill and carry off the young and cause the hive to fail from starvation, cold and hunger.

Meanwhile enjoy the Summer Holidays, enjoy your beekeeping and we will be interested to hear how you have fared on the 18th.

All the best for the New Year. See you soon.
Adrian.



Next club meeting

TO BE ADVISED

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

FIELD DAY

SUNDAY January 18th 2009

In the CLUB HIVES

1.30pm

150 EGMONT ROAD

Hard labour

For a bee to produce a teaspoon of honey, she will have to visit 500 flowers and fill her 'stomach' 60 times. For a hive to produce a kilogram of honey, collectively the bees will fly the equivalent of three times around the globe.

Richard William Fereday, 1820?-1899

Richard Fereday was best known as an entomologist. He specialised in the study of moths and butterflies, identifying 616 New Zealand species. He encouraged the importation of bumble bees for fertilising red clover.

Johns, Peter M. 'Fereday, Richard William 1820? - 1899'. *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, updated 22 June 2007

URL: <http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/>

The original version of this biography was published in the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* Volume Two (1870-1900), 1993

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TUTU

(*Coriaria arborea*).

A plant that has attracted much attention because of its poisonous properties is tutu, a shrub growing, at most, to a height of about 20 ft. It occurs in shrubland and in open places in coastal and montane forest throughout New Zealand and the Chatham Islands. It often comes in profusely on cuttings running through damp forest. It is a straggling plant, much branched from the base and with four-angled branches. The leaves are opposite and on slender stems, the whole looking like a pinnate leaf. Each leaf is 1–3 in. long, about broad-ovate and acute.

The small flowers are arranged in drooping racemes, 6 in. or more in length. The petals, later juicy and purplish-black, embrace the fruit.

The poisonous principle is a toxin, tutin, which occurs in all parts of the plant except the fleshy petals. Tutu has been responsible for the greatest percentage of stock poisoning by plants in New Zealand. Sheep and cattle are mostly affected. Occasionally poisoning of human beings by honey has been attributed to the honeydew from tutu which has been collected by bees.

The genus *Coriaria* is the only one of the family Coriariaceae. There are about 30 species, mostly shrubs, found in southern Europe, eastern Asia, south and central America, and New Zealand where there are seven other species besides that of *C. arborea*.

Most of these are small shrubs with small leaves. *C. plumosa*, for example, is a prostrate plant under a foot high with leaves a fraction of an inch long only.

by Alec Lindsay Poole, M.SC., B.FOR.SC., F.R.S.N.Z., Director-General of Forests, Wellington.

Warning

This information was published in 1966 in *An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*, edited by A. H. McLintock. It has not been corrected and will not be updated.

'TUTU', from *An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*, edited by A. H. McLintock, originally published in 1966.

Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 18-Sep-2007

URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/1966/T/Tutu/en>



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Tutu, Coriaria arborea

New Zealand's wasps and bees

The narrow-waisted Hymenoptera

Wasps and bees belong to the order Hymenoptera – one of the largest insect groups, which includes ants. Hymenoptera adults nearly all have a narrow waist, between the thorax and abdomen. They have two pairs of membranous wings, the front pair larger. Some are wingless.

Many species form colonies and have a social structure with specialised roles, but others live alone. In some species the female's ovipositor (egg-laying tube) doubles as a stinger. Males do not sting.

Differences between wasps and bees

Wasps and bees are similar in most respects – bees are really a sub-group of wasps. Wasps have few or no hairs. Most wasp larvae feed on invertebrates, and adults mainly on sugary food such as nectar.

Bees have hairy bodies. They are totally vegetarian, and mostly feed their larvae on pollen.

Life cycle

The Hymenoptera life cycle has four stages:

- The adult female lays eggs.
- A larva (without legs) hatches, eats and grows.
- It forms a pupa.
- The adult eventually emerges.

Thousands of native species

New Zealand has an estimated 2,000–3,000 species of wasp and bee, most of which are native. The exact number is not known, as new species are still being found. Most are not very noticeable, and many are tiny. Groups include wood wasps and sawflies, parasitic wasps, stinging wasps, hunting wasps and bees.

Conspicuous introduced species

More easily seen are the introduced German and common wasps, paper wasps, honeybees and bumblebees. They form a tiny fraction of the total number of species, but they cross our paths more often.

Sawflies and wood wasps

The sawflies and wood wasps are a primitive group, separate from all the other Hymenoptera. Early in the evolution of wasps, this group stayed relatively unchanged, while the ancestors of most of today's wasps developed a narrow waist and other features.

New Zealand has only three native species of primitive wasp, all hard to find. Little is known of their biology and diet, but most of this group feed only on plant tissue.

The best known is a parasite, *Guiglia schauinslandi*, which eats the larvae of wood-boring beetles and other wood wasps.

Introduced sawflies and wood wasps

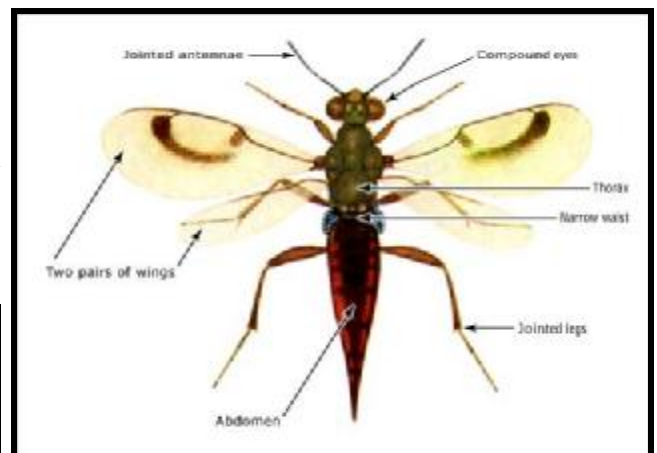
Several accidentally introduced sawflies and wood wasps have become very common. Some, like the pear and cherry slug (actually the larval stage of *Caliroa cerasi*), and

the eucalyptus blotch leaf miner (*Phylacteophaga froggatti*), are pests of cultivated plants. Larvae of the European siren wood wasp (*Sirex noctilio*) feed in the wood of conifers, particularly radiata pine, and can cause considerable damage in plantation forests.

The most common primitive wasp is the willow sawfly (*Pontania proxima*). Its larvae feed inside willow leaves and make the leaf grow into a hard, reddish lump or gall, seen all over New Zealand.

Features of wasps and bees

All wasps and bees have a pair of jointed antennae, six pairs of jointed legs, and compound eyes. Their thorax and abdomen are connected by a narrow waist, except for primitive wasps, which have a wider waist. Wasps and bees have two pairs of wings – a larger pair in front of a smaller pair – except for some wingless species. This is *Proshizonotus resplendens*, a native parasitic wasp. It has distinctive hairs around its narrow waist.



John Early. 'Wasps and bees', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 18-Nov-2008

URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/TheBush/>

[InsectsAndOtherInvertebrates/WaspsAndBees/en](http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/TheBush/InsectsAndOtherInvertebrates/WaspsAndBees/en)