



JULY 2010

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



What's happening in Taranaki

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers,

The last few days have been sunny and warm but the nights have been cold and we have had several frosts.. Over the weekend I was looking at the bees coming into the hives and many were carrying pollen from the Tree Lucerne or gorse flowers I suspect as these are now in full bloom. Activity was slow to start until the day warmed up and activity slowed to a standstill before sundown. Soon I must go around all the hives and 'heft' them, to see how heavy they are and if any require supplementary feeding.

The cold weather usually doesn't bother them if they are housed in a draught proof hive, with no excessive moisture or condensation present. What will bother them is a visiting mouse who more than likely will make a nest in the back of the hive in those old combs that you have been moving to the outside of the super with the intention of replacing them in the spring. It may appear to be having little effect on the bees currently but it will be stealing honey and pollen every day and will not confine its destructive habits to one or two combs. So get rid of it before it starts to invite others to share the bounty or raise a family.

I was moving a pile of wood over the weekend and I discovered three Queen Wasps, which were promptly flattened. Queens hibernate in dry warmish places like woodpiles, woodsheds, stone walls, hay sheds or garages. Killing the queens now will save you trying to locate the nest later in the year and money, in not having to poison the mature nest in an awkward spot on the neighbours property.

The AGM went well with a look at a modern extraction plant and demonstrations were given of the action of the 'deboxer' for frames, the mechanical uncapping machine, an automatic extractor, mechanical honey sieving and an automatic packing machine, making life much easier these days.

Mr Kevin Farley won the honey competition but I am afraid you will have to put up with the usual incumbents on the Club Committee. It was pleasing however to see that the finances were in a healthy state but as we were running low, we have decided to increase the subs to \$30 but reduced to \$25 per person if paid before the September meeting. Subs can be mailed to Sue Billing at 34, Norwich Avenue, Spotswood, New Plymouth or paid at any Club Night.

Our next meeting will be on the 19th July at 6.30pm. in the Plunket Rooms opposite the Warehouse adjacent to the New World Supermarket and we will be pleased to welcome you and your partner.

We will be discussing the plan for the coming year, what you

should have done to your bees, what you need to do over the next four weeks and if you would like to join in a 'Disease-athon' in the spring. This exercise gives you

a look at several hives in the locality in various states and is recommended for those new to beekeeping as each team will be led by an experienced beekeeper, See you at the meeting on Monday evening. Adrian.

Next club meeting

19th July 2010

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month



High Quality Manuka Honey in Short Supply

Radio New Zealand, 6/21/2010

A severe shortage of high-quality manuka honey is leaving exporters struggling to fill orders, and hitting beekeepers' incomes.

Processor and exporter Steve Lyttle of Honey Valley in Timaru says variable weather conditions this year, which may have seen manuka flower at the same time as other trees, severely affected production of manuka honey.

Mr Lyttle says the manuka content in the honey is lower than usual and exporters are struggling to fill orders for high-quality honey...

Saharan Honey Bees Isolated for 5,000 Years

Honeybees Survive in Desert Oasis

By Matt Walker, BBC, 6/22/10

Deep in the Sahara desert are honeybees that have remained isolated from all other bees for at least 5,000 years.

The bees arrived at Kufra in Libya when the Sahara was still a green savannah, and have survived ever since around an oasis in the desert, over 1,000km from their nearest neighbouring bees.

So concludes a new study which has analysed the bees' genetics.

The Kufra honeybees are so isolated they remain free of a parasitic mite that threatens bees around the world.

Details of the discovery are published in the journal Conservation Genetics...

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

At German Airports, Bees Help Monitor Air Quality

By Tanya Mohn, The New York Times, 6/28/2010

Airports in Germany have come up with an unusual approach to monitoring air quality. The Düsseldorf International Airport and seven other airports are using bees as “biodetectives,” their honey regularly tested for toxins.

“Air quality at and around the airport is excellent,” said Peter Nengelken, the airport’s community liaison. The first batch of this year’s harvested honey from some 200,000 bees was tested in early June, he said, and indicated that toxins were far below official limits, consistent with results since 2006 when the airport began working with bees.

Beekeepers from the local neighborhood club keep the bees. The honey, “Düsseldorf Natural,” is bottled and given away as gifts.

Biomonitoring, or the use of living organisms to test environmental health, does not replace traditional monitoring, said Martin Bunkowski, an environmental engineer for the Association of German Airports. But “it’s a very clear message for the public because it is easy to understand,” he added.

Volker Liebig, a chemist for Orga Lab, who analyzes honey samples twice a year for the Düsseldorf and six other German airports, said results showed the absence of substances that the lab tested for, like certain hydrocarbons and heavy metals, and the honey “was comparable to honey produced in areas without any industrial activity.” A much larger data sampling over more time is needed for a definitive conclusion, he said, but preliminary results are promising.

Could bees be modern-day sentinels like the canaries once used as warning signals of toxic gases in coal mines?

Assessing environmental health using bees as “terrestrial bioindicators” is a fairly new undertaking, said Jamie Ellis, assistant professor of entomology at the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory, University of Florida in Gainesville. “We all believe it can be done, but translating the results into real-world solutions or answers may be a little premature.” Still, similar work with insects to gauge water quality has long been successful...



Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Royal Jelly Boosts Heart Health, Lowers Cholesterol

Natural Health from A-Z

Margaret Durst, N.D., Mason County News, June 30, 2010

Royal Jelly is an old folk remedy that is often overlooked. It is also known as bee’s milk, and is a concentrated super food that is a powerful anti-aging tonic. Royal Jelly contains many essential nutrients for humans. These include B vitamins, vitamins A, C, D, E and K, 12 important minerals, 18 amino acids, collagen, and lecithin.

Royal Jelly is the milky fluid made of digested pollen and honey nectar that is mixed with a chemical secreted from a gland in the nurser bee’s head. This fluid is fed to the Queen Bees and is believed to be responsible for her stamina and longevity. (Queen Bees live 4 to 5 years compared to worker bees that live about 40 days.)

Health benefits of Royal Jelly are many. It is used not only for longevity, but for cardiovascular health, healing of the digestive tract, building the immune system, preventing cancer, lowering cholesterol and triglycerides, alleviating rheumatoid arthritis, and restoring skin health.

Research has shown that Royal Jelly lowers total cholesterol levels by 14 % and lowers triglyceride levels by approximately 10%. Royal Jelly has also been shown to help prevent atherosclerosis and to reduce fibrinogen levels, thereby helping to prevent abnormal blood clotting and strokes.

In the digestive tract, Royal Jelly is used to promote healthy tissue, to heal ulcers, and to protect the liver.

For the immune system, Royal Jelly stimulates the production of antibodies and suppresses Gram-Positive types of bacteria such as staphylococcus and streptococcus. It also helps prevent many forms of cancer, specifically leukemia and sarcomas. Royal Jelly enhances the function of the lymph nodes and stimulates the production of lymphocytes.

Because Royal Jelly is a concentrated source of Pantothenic acid, or Vitamin B5, it is used to nourish the adrenal glands, and therefore for energy. Royal Jelly strengthens the adrenal glands, helping to protect them from the stress of our busy lifestyles and our diets that include sugar, chocolate, caffeine and sodas which all deplete the adrenal glands...



Tuesday, July 06, 2010

Bee Pollen Shows Anti-Inflammatory Activity

Anti-Inflammatory Effect of Bee Pollen Ethanol Extract from *Cistus* sp. of Spanish on Carrageenan-Induced Rat Hind Paw Edema

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 23 June 2010

Background

Bee pollen, a honeybee product, is the feed for honeybees prepared themselves by pollens collecting from plants and has been consumed as a perfect food in Europe, because it is nutritionally well balanced. In this study, we aimed to investigate the anti-inflammatory effect of bee pollen from *Cistus* sp. of Spanish origin by a method of carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats, and to investigate the mechanism of anti-inflammatory action and also to elucidate components involved in bee pollen extracted with ethanol.

Methods

The bee pollen bulk, its water extract and its ethanol extract were administered orally to rats. One hour later, paw edema was produced by injecting of 1% solution of carrageenan, and paw volume was measured before and after carrageenan injection up to 5 h. The ethanol extract and water extract were measured COX-1 and COX-2 inhibitory activities using COX inhibitor screening assay kit, and were compared for the inhibition of NO production in LPS-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells. The constituents of bee pollen were purified from the ethanol extract subjected to silica gel or LH-20 column chromatography. Each column chromatography fractions were further purified by repeated ODS or silica gel column chromatography.

Results

The bee pollen bulk mildly suppressed the carrageenan-induced paw edema and the water extract showed almost no inhibitory activity, but the ethanol extract showed relatively strong inhibition of paw edema. The ethanol extract inhibited the NO production and COX-2 but not COX-1 activity, but the water extract did not affect the NO production or COX activities. Flavonoids were isolated and purified from the ethanol extract of bee pollen, and identified at least five flavonoids and their glycosides.

Conclusions

It is suggested that the ethanol extract of bee pollen show a potent anti-inflammatory activity and its effect acts via the inhibition of NO production, besides the inhibitory activity of COX-2. Some flavonoids included in bee pollen may partly participate in some of the anti-inflammatory action. The bee pollen would be beneficial not only as a dietary supplement but also as a functional food.



Bee jokes

Q: What did the confused bee say?

A: To bee or not to bee!

Q: What's black, yellow and covered in blackberries?

A: A bramble bee!

Q: What do bees do if they want to use public transport?

A: Wait at a buzz stop!

Q: What is the bees favorite film?

A: The Sting!

Q: What goes hum-choo, hum choo?

A: A bee with a cold!

Q: What's a bee-line?

A: The shortest distance between two buzz-stops!

Q: What is a baby bee?

A: A little humbug!

Q: What do bees chew?

A: Bumble gum!

Q: What does a bee say before it stings you?

A: This is going to hurt me a lot more than it hurts you!

Q: What kind of bee can keep an aeroplane dry?

A: An aero-drone!



Varroa Strips

Supplies of Varroa strips for the Autumn treatment. 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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