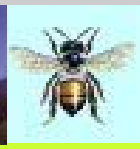

MARCH 2012

Taranaki Beekeeping Club

WHAT'S ON IN TARANAKI

Greetings to you all.
What a Summer! What Summer? The season can't seem to make up its mind where in the calendar we are! The days are a mixture of sun and cloud and the temperatures are hot and cold but the nights are drawing in fast. The soil temperatures have been lower than usual for the whole Summer and the plants don't seem to have had the energy to secrete much nectar so the season has been below average for Honey production in most places. You may have been one of the lucky ones and have your own micro-climate at your place but generally in Taranaki the crop will be below average this year.

Have you removed your honey crop? Now is the time to do so if you haven't. Don't forget to put back those Varroa treatments as the mites will be building up fast now as the bee brood nest becomes smaller due to the stored honey and the mites have had a holiday over the last three months with no treatment, so will be pretty numerous in large apiaries. This treatment should clear the mites out of the hive for most of the Winter and give the bees some respite with a chance to reduce the viral presence within the hive.

We will be taking the honey off the Club hives next Sunday, 25th March at 2 pm. so come along and see how its done. We have three hives at 150 Egmont Road and we will be giving you the opportunity to get some 'hands on' experience. Two of the hives have been very productive but we have had problems with the far hive as they were reluctant to accept a new queen earlier in the season. Honey 'take off' will not happen if it is raining as the bees are not happy on the best of days when they are being robbed of their harvest.

The next Club night will be on **Monday, the 19th March** at the Plunket Rooms opposite Warehouse at 6.30 pm. We will be talking about the harvest, how to take off honey without too much confusion and how to prepare your hives for the coming months and colder temperatures. How much honey to leave on the hive for the Winter and how many boxes you should leave on. I hope to see you there.
Adrian.

Next club meeting
Monday 19th March
In the PLUNKET ROOMS
6.30pm
Next to New World Supermarket
Third Monday of every month

Beekeeping in NZ Industry

New Zealand had 2,944 registered beekeepers in September 2010, who owned more than 377,000 hives in over 22,000 apiaries.
In 2007 total honey production was 9.7 thousand tonnes. The production of manuka honey, valued for its antibacterial properties, is increasingly important. Pollen, beeswax, and propolis are also produced. Beekeepers provide pollination services to horticulturists, which generates more income than the products of bee culture.
Approximately 20–25 thousand queen bees, and 20 tonnes of packaged bees (which include worker bees and a queen) are exported live each year.
The National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand established "National Bee Week".
The Green Party are calling for a phase out of pesticides that are toxic to bees as is happening in the European Union.
Honey containing the poisonous tutin can be produced by bees feeding on honeydew produced by sap-sucking vine hopper insects (*Scolypopa* genus) feeding on tutu, a plant native to New Zealand.
The last recorded deaths from eating honey containing tutin were in the 1890s.
In May 2011 there were fears the colony collapse disorder had begun in New Zealand. Losses of up to 30% had been reported with Canterbury and Poverty Bay being hardest hit.

Pests and parasites

Wax moths

Wax moth (*Aphomia sociella*)—more often associated with bumble bees (*Bombus* sp.)
Main article: Waxworm
Galleria mellonella (greater wax moths) will not attack the bees directly, but feed on the wax used by the bees to build their honeycomb. Their full development to adults requires access to used brood comb or brood cell cleanings—these contain protein essential for the larvae's development, in the form of brood cocoons.
The destruction of the comb will spill or contaminate stored honey and may kill bee larvae.
When honey supers are stored for the winter in a mild climate, or in heated storage, the wax moth larvae can destroy portions of the comb, even though they will not fully develop. Damaged comb may be scraped out and will be replaced by the bees. Wax moth larvae and eggs are killed by freezing, so storage in unheated sheds or barns in higher latitudes is the only control necessary.
Because wax moths cannot survive a cold winter, they are usually not a problem for beekeepers in the northern U.S. or Canada, unless they survive winter in heated storage, or are brought from the south by purchase or migration of beekeepers. They thrive and spread most rapidly with temperatures above 30 °C (90 °F), so some areas with only occasional days that hot, rarely have a problem with wax moths, unless the colony is already weak due to stress from other factors.

Control and treatment

A strong hive generally needs no treatment to control wax moths; the bees themselves will kill and clean out the moth larvae and webs. Wax moth larvae may fully develop in cell cleanings when such cleanings accumulate thickly where they are not accessible to the bees.
Wax moth development in comb is generally not a problem with top bar hives as unused combs are usually left in the hive during the winter. Since this type of hive is not used in severe wintering conditions, the bees will be able to patrol and inspect the unused comb.
Wax moths can be controlled by storing supers in well ventilated areas. Control of wax moths by other means includes the freezing of the comb for at least twenty-four hours.

Colony collapse disorder (**CCD**) is a phenomenon in which worker bees from a beehive or European honey bee colony abruptly disappear. While such disappearances have occurred throughout the history of apiculture, the term *colony collapse disorder* was first applied to a drastic rise in the number of disappearances of Western honey bee colonies in North America in late 2006. Colony collapse is significant because many agricultural crops worldwide are pollinated by bees.
European beekeepers observed similar phenomena in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain, and initial reports have also come in from Switzerland and Germany, albeit to a lesser degree while the Northern Ireland Assembly received reports of a decline greater than 50%. Possible cases of CCD have also been reported in Taiwan since April 2007.
The cause or causes of the syndrome are unknown. In 2007, some authorities attributed the problem to biotic factors such as *Varroa* mites and insect diseases (i.e., pathogens including *Nosema apis* and Israel acute paralysis virus). Other proposed causes include environmental change-related stresses, malnutrition, pesticides (*e.g.*. neonicotinoids such as clothianidin and imidacloprid), and migratory beekeeping. More speculative possibilities have included both cell phone radiation and genetically modified (GM) crops with pest control characteristics. Relatively little attention has been given to the artificial selective breeding of bees for industrial use, the displacement of and stressors on wild bees, and the effect of artificial genetic homogeneity on increased predisposition and uniform susceptibility to disease.[*citation needed*]
It has also been suggested that it may be due to a combination of many factors and that no single factor is the cause. The most recent report (USDA - 2010) states that "based on an initial analysis of collected bee samples (CCD- and non-CCD affected), reports have noted the high number of viruses and other pathogens, pesticides, and parasites present in CCD colonies, and lower levels in non-CCD colonies. This work suggests that a combination of environmental stressors may set off a cascade of events and contribute to a colony where weakened worker bees are more susceptible to pests and pathogens." Applying proteomics-based pathogen screening tools in 2010, researchers announced they had identified a co-infection of invertebrate iridescent virus type 6 (IIV-6) and the fungus *Nosema ceranae* in all CCD colonies sampled. However, subsequent studies have questioned the methodology used in these proteomic experiments.

Thursday, February 23, 2012

New Zealand's Manuka Health to Launch Therapeutic Honey

By Gunraj Sandhu, Tops News, 2/21/2012

As per recent reports, it has been recently revealed that Waikato-based company Manuka Health is going to launch a specialized honey, which will be made using international technology.

Manuka Health Chief Executive Kerry Paul said that the honey which will be available in New Zealand from next month will increase the therapeutic and financial value of their product. The honey will be made using Japanese process, which combines the bioactive properties of the honey with other medicinal plants.

Paul said that the combination with other medicinal plant will increase the antibacterial properties of honey and will make it more effective than raw honey, which is said to be purest form of the same.

A lot of efforts have been made to develop the new form of honey, said Paul, who further affirmed that scientists at the Kobe Medical School were the ones, who said that cyclodextrins will be a great bioactive booster and will derive best results if mixed with honey…

Apitherapy News - The Internet's Best Source of Information About the Medicinal Use of Bee Products

NEED A NEW QUEEN?
I have queens and queen cells for sale
Queens $30 Cells $4 each can be picked up from Adrian's place or Saturday market. Must be ordered 3 days in advance

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Thursday, January 05, 2012

Bad Back? Bee Venom Could Help

Independent (South Africa), January 3, 2012

London - Bee venom is being used as a treatment for chronic back pain. In a clinical trial, patients who have had lower back pain for three or more months will be given injections of the venom.

In the trial at Kyung Hee University Hospital in South Korea, half the patients will have the venom, while the others will be given ibuprofen.

In a small study reported this month in the Journal of Pharmacopuncture, patients who had been hospitalised with lower back pain were given acupuncture or acupuncture plus bee venom; the venom treatment was more effective…

Fungal diseases

Chalkbrood

Ascosphaera apis is a fungal disease that infests the gut of the larva. The fungus will compete with the larva for food, ultimately causing it to starve. The fungus will then go on to consume the rest of the larva's body, causing it to appear white and 'chalky'.
Chalkbrood is most commonly visible during wet springs. Hives with Chalkbrood can generally be recovered by increasing the ventilation through the hive.

Club contacts
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Sue Billing 751 4337 Treasurer

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