NOVEMBER 2009

Taranaki Beekeeping Club

What's happening in Taranaki

Greetings Fellow Beekeepers,

What an interesting season we are having. The warm weather that we had in August promoted the usual Spring swarming phase. Then apparently we had the coldest October for 64 years and so now the bees, who can't read calendars, are very confused by the onset of another Spring. They are again in swarming mode and regular checks of the hive are vital if you are to retain your workers for the forthcoming Nectar flows. I was asked to collect a swarm last week and on going through the original hive, we discovered thirteen Queen cells – they certainly had been busy and there was a lot of fresh nectar in the combs too.

From now until Christmas you should go through your brood boxes every two weeks if you are to prevent swarms leaving your hives! It takes about 16 days for a queen to mature and by going through the brood chambers every two weeks you should be able to spot the queen cells maturing. Swarm cells usually appear along the bottom of the frame but not always, so be warned, as a swarm will issue forth if you miss one. If you want to increase your stocks, then there is a better way than leaving the hive to its own devices. Create a nucleus or two and this will relieve the pressure to swarm and give additional space in the hive.

I noticed today that the Kamahi is starting to bloom. This is, for some beekeepers, the first nectar flow of the season and if there are Kamihi trees near your hives then the bees will be gathering nectar from them on the warm sunny days. My bees have been bringing in so much nectar from the surrounding bush and pasture that they are now starting to draw out foundation to store it in. The Buttercups are making a great display and the bees are working them furiously too.

As the nectar begins to flow you must keep pace with the empty frames for the bees to store it in. Now is a good time to get those new frames of foundation drawn out, as during a flow it is drawn quickly and evenly. Remember not to take away any frames of honey before they are capped! If you can't contain yourself and want to sample the new season honey then you should steal some with a teaspoon from the comb and return it to its original position when you close the hive. The bees will repair the comb and replace the nectar that you stole.

At the next meeting, on Monday 16th Nov. at 6.30pm. at the Plunket Rooms opposite the Warehouse, we will be discussing swarm control measures, collecting swarms and what you should be looking for when you open your hives in November. You may look very studious and learned, slowly turning the frames over one by one but unless you know what you are looking for or what you are looking at, it will not be of any value to you. All will be revealed at the meeting. I will look forward to meeting you there. Oh! Just a reminder that we need your support financially and subscriptions are well overdue – please bring your contribution ($20) to the meeting or mail it to our treasurer at: 34, Norwich Avenue, Spotswood, N.P.

Thank you. Adrian.

Next club meeting

16th November 2009

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

BEEMASTER.COM

Attached below is a link to watch a video of hiving bees. Plus many more you may find interesting

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a4a-Tw-qFI

Kamahi honey has traditionally been one of New Zealand's most under rated honeys. While it is produced in both the North and South Islands, most Kamahi honey is produced on the West Coast of the South Island. Here Kamahi trees (**Weinmannia *racemosa***) form a significant part of the forest canopy, growing to around 25 metres at maturity.

While quite a strong flavoured honey, Kamahi is in fact a honey with very complex flavours and aftertones

Sweet preservative

Bees have been making honey for about 10–20 million years. The ancient Egyptians used honey to embalm their dead, and Alexander the Great was buried in white honey.

Saturday, November 07, 2009

Royal Jelly Recommended for Stress

Stress and Sex
The Philippine Star, 11/5/2009

MANILA, Philippines - Too much dedication toward one's work can bring too much stress. And too much stress can greatly affect one's health.

Some of the common problems experienced by people under stress include depression, hair loss, irritability, and obesity. It can also affect the immune system, thus people with high stress levels are more prone to diseases such as diabetes.

Aside from these, stress can also lower one's libido. Since chronic stress affects the function of hormones (cortisol and epinephrine), it can also affect hormones involved in one's sexual response…

Supplements with royal jelly and ginseng can also improve one's ability for sexual intimacy. Energin 300, for instance, provides a high dose of royal jelly and ginseng.

It is now being prescribed by many local doctors who have seen remarkable improvement in their patients. A lot of doctors have already considered Energin 300 as a natural enhancer of health and wellness.

Manufactured by NOW Foods, one of the leading manufacturers of vitamins and food supplements in the United States, Energin 300 has the highest amount of ginseng among similar brands that help improve one's overall performance if taken regularly. Trianon International distributes it locally.

The beneficial effect of Energin 300 was recently shown in a pre-launch trial among office personnel and employees, public transport drivers, call center agents, and students who reported improved virility and sexual potency after taking Energin 300, according to Trianon marketing manager Charles Cultura.

Majority of the subjects also reported overall improvement in physical and mental performance, and ability to fight stress, he said…

Monday, November 09, 2009

Propolis Boosts Prostate Cancer Cell Death

Ethanolic Extract of Propolis Augments TRAIL-Induced Apoptotic Death in Prostate Cancer Cells
Evid Based Complement Alternat Med, 2009 Nov 5

Prostate cancer is a commonly diagnosed cancer in men. The ethanolic extract of propolis (EEP) and its phenolic compounds possess immunomodulatory, chemopreventive and antitumor effects.

Tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL/APO2L) is a naturally occurring anticancer agent that preferentially induces apoptosis in cancer cells and is not toxic to normal cells.

We examined the cytotoxic and apoptotic effects of EEP and phenolic compounds isolated from propolis in combination with TRAIL on two prostate cancer cell lines, hormone-sensitivity LNCaP and hormone-refractory DU145…

Our study demonstrated that EEP and its components significantly sensitize to TRAIL-induced death in prostate cancer cells…

Perfect size for a hive

The Langstroth hive was named after the Reverend L. L. Langstroth, an American, and described in his 1871 book, *The hive and the honey bee*. He was not the first to use the hanging frames, but did discover that bees failed to build a honeycomb in a space of less than 6.3 millimetres or greater than 9.5 millimetres. If the space was smaller, bees filled the gap with propolis; if the gap was larger they would not use it.

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 sirex 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.

Club Contacts

Adrian King	7534681	President
Stephen Black	7526860	Secretary
Sue Billing	7514337	Treasurer