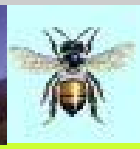

NOVEMBER 2011

Taranaki Beekeeping Club

WHAT'S ON IN TARANAKI

Greetings to you all.

What a hectic few weeks we have had since the last meeting. With the cold nights and warm but overcast days, I think that practically every hive in the province must have either swarmed or given it serious consideration. It has been permanent Spring! If you have managed to keep your bees under control, they will have brought in a quantity of nectar and put it aside as capped honey for a rainy day – promised later this week! Some strong hives in good areas will have nearly a box of honey by now, so watch out for overcrowding and overheating, both will cause swarming!

Now is a good time to get any foundation drawn as the bees readily draw foundation in a honey flow when the temperature is elevated, and they are wanting to put the nectar into cells to reduce its water content. It is a good idea to put a frame of foundation alternately in the new super as the bees are more likely to draw it out without 'waves' – i.e. perfectly flat.

Swarms are very good at drawing foundation quickly, as they need cells for nectar and brood as soon as possible, so when caught usually have ingested a good quantity of food before leaving the maternal hive, which can be converted into wax readily and you can often find traces of wax on their resting place, secreted when the 'scouts' were looking for a place for the swarm to set up home.

If you are assembling foundation frames remember to have tight wires to support the sheet of foundation and it must be pushed carefully into the slot of the frame's top bar to prevent it from collapsing in the heat of the hive.

Last attempt at a Field Day at the Club Hives was washed out so we should attempt another – this Sunday – the 20th Nov. at 150 Egmont Road for the Newcomers, at 2 p.m. We will be demonstrating how to prepare a Nuc. to increase your numbers or to sell to a budding Beekeeper or even to reduce the number of bees in the hive to stop overcrowding. Also we must replace the Varroa treatment strips as the Spring placings will be exhausted. Have you renewed your strips? See you at the field day appropriately dressed!

Adrian.

Next club meeting

21st November 2011

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

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 in stored comb by application of the aizawai variety of Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) spores via spraying. It is a very effective biological control and has an excellent safety record[*citation needed*].

Wax moths can be controlled chemically with paradichlorobenzene (moth crystals or urinal disks). If chemical methods are used, the combs must be well-aired-out for several days before use. The use of naphthalene (mothballs) is discouraged because it accumulates in the wax, which can kill bees or contaminate honey stores. Control of wax moths by other means includes the freezing of the comb for at least twenty-four hours.

Study of Bees May be Medicinal Honeypot

By Greg Wright, Yorkshire Post, 9/13/2011

The next time you feel tempted to swat a bee, consider this fact:
You are attacking a flying pharmacy.
Mankind has mistreated bees for centuries, and our ignorance means we've lost the chance to eradicate a host of lethal diseases.
With help from a team of Yorkshire-based bee lovers, we could be about to get a second chance.
Entrepreneur James Fearnley plans to establish a centre in the North York Moors which will study how bees can improve our health.
Mr Fearnley predicts that the centre will create 10 jobs in the heart of the National Park, at a time when the public sector spending squeeze is making life harder for rural communities.
Mr Fearnley, who is the founder of Whitby-based Nature's Laboratory, believes it would be the height of folly to take bees for granted. His company is behind the BeeVital brand, which develops products derived from bees.
The long term survival of the honey bee is in question while researchers are discovering some "astounding medicinal properties for products produced by honey", according to Mr Fearnley.
"Everyone now knows about the antibiotic properties of honey, but we have discovered that bees are collecting a chemical antidote to Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) but only in areas where sleeping sickness is found,'' he said.
"In tropical areas, where bees are seriously challenged by micro bacteria, they are collecting material that is highly effective against MRSA."
If Mr Fearnley's initiative succeeds, Yorkshire could become a global centre for the study of bees.
He said yesterday: "Our vision is to develop an international focus for the better understanding of the medicinal values of bee products, or apiceuticals as we call them…
James Fearnley, the founder of the healthcare brand, BeeVital, has been involved in natural medicine since the early 1970s.
In 1992 he co-founded a company specialising in bee products.
He was one of the first people in the UK to commission scientific studies into propolis…

Apitherapy Products Promoted in Fiji

Farmers Learn Tricks of the Trade in Bee-Keeping
Sera Whippy, Fiji Times, 11/6/2011

It was a bee-affair for about 28 farmers who attended a Ministry of Agriculture workshop at the Veilomani Boys Home in Ba.

Agriculture officer Karishma Gounder said the workshop, which was for four days, had farmers from as far as Nadi and Tavua who wanted to learn the tricks of the trade in bee-keeping...

She said the last two days of the workshop saw the farmers constructing bee-hives. "A standard beehive was constructed with the help of the agriculture officers. This is a sustainable method of reducing costs and expenses. With this workshop farmers now would be able to construct their own bee-hives at a low cost and sell **honey** and other bee hive products such as **wax, pollen, royal jelly and propolis** at a quality price."

Club contacts

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Stephen Black 752 6860 Secretary
Sue Billing 751 4337 Treasurer

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

Stephen & Fiona
Bees-R-Us
06 752 6860

Beekeeping Supplies

Stephen & Fiona
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