



OCTOBER 2008

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TARANAKI

What a wet spring we are having! Most of the nectar that the bees should have collected will have been washed out of the flowers and pollination so far this season has been poor. The bees have been using their stores for their spring build up and because of the mild weather, the Queen has been busy spreading her brood nest. As the brood nest becomes larger, there is less room for all the colony, increasing daily as the brood hatches. Less room means overcrowding and this will increase the likelihood of swarming taking place.

I have taken two large swarms this season - on the only two fine days we have had this month - so beware your hive may be gearing up for action. At this time of the season it is advisable to check through the hive every fortnight for signs that the bees are preparing to leave.

As the Queen will be looking for space to lay in the warmth of the brood nest, make sure that there are empty frames close to the brood nest for her to do just that. The upper box may be crammed full of stored honey which is hindering brood nest expansion and if you don't do something about it the bees will! The more bees you can retain in the hive, the greater your foraging force and the more nectar they will be able to collect for you. What preparations you make during the next three months will determine the magnitude of your honey crop this season.

Don't forget that Varroa is alive and trying to ruin your colony, so remember that strip treatment only lasts an effective six weeks, so you may need to replace them soon. What is your Varroa invasion per hive? Do a spot check and find out if your treatment is doing its job!

At the next meeting on Mon. 21st we will discuss how to prevent swarming by looking for the preparation signs and deciding what we can do to prevent our future workers from going elsewhere. Also we will be telling you how to collect swarms from your place or elsewhere and what to do with them.

As the lower box becomes empty, we can take away the empty outside frames if they are black, old and broken or contain too many drone cells and replace these frames with better ones from the higher box.

Now is the time to get the honey supers prepared for use as they will be needed next month. You are advised to have two honey supers per hive as this will enable you to extract from one while the other continues to fill or it will give you the chance to house that surprise swarm that you are offered.

Last Month we visited the Club Hives and found them to be in good order - our thanks to John Smillie. The older was ready to split into two if required and the small one had a Virgin Queen, waiting for a fine day to set out on her nuptial flight. We will have a Field day later this month to monitor progress and see if she is doing her job properly.

Adrian King.

Next club meeting
MONDAY October 20th
In the Plunket rooms
6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket
Third Monday of every month

Can a Honeybee Bite and Cure?

Dr A Nagarathna, Deccan Herald, 10/3/2008

Bee venom was first linked to arthritis as a possible treatment as the result of a chance observation. Beekeepers noticed that their aches and pains and creaky joints seemed to improve after having been stung by bees repeatedly...

Bee venom is a complex mixture of proteins (enzymes and peptides) with unique pharmacological activities. Enzymes are proteins that catalyze the chemical reaction in living systems. The main enzymes in bee venom are hyaluronidase and phospholipase. Hyaluronidase breaks down hyaluronic acid and the intestinal fluid that holds cells together allowing the venom to spread faster among cells. Peptides are proteins that possess specific biological activities. There are three major peptides in bee venom like melittin, apamin peptide 401 which stimulates the body's adrenal and pituitary gland to produce cortisol which is a natural steroid which doesn't cause medical complications like the induced steroid. Bee venom is a powerful anti inflammatory agent more effective than cortisone when administered in small doses.

Traditional therapy involves the application of bee stings on the affected area of the patient over a period of time. Gradually the frequency and number of stings are increased until desensitization is achieved.

A single dose of bee venom administered subcutaneously was found to effectively suppress the development of arthritis. Bee venom administered to rats and dogs three times per week beginning for two weeks showed swelling lesions and inflammation noticeably decreased in rats treated with venom...

Club Contacts

Adrian King	7534681	President
Stephen Black	7526860	Secretary
Sue Billing	7574337	Treasurer

DO'S AND DON'T'S OF AFB CONTROL



DO'S

- Inspect your hives for AFB at least twice a year.
- Inspect hives before removing bees, honey or equipment.
- Inspect all brood frames.
- Shake bees off the frames before inspecting them.
- Train yourself and your staff in techniques to recognise and eliminate AFB.
- **Report AFB to the Management Agency within 7 days.**
- Burn infected colonies.
- Feed pollen substitutes rather than pollen.
- Feed sugar syrup rather than frames of honey.
- Use hive and apiary quarantines.
- Only use approved sterilisation methods.
- Use a thermometer and timer when wax dipping (10 min at 160°C).
- Treat hives to clear up parasitic mite syndrome (PMS) before checking for AFB.
- Become an approved beekeeper.

Get suspect AFB samples tested.



We are currently producing queen cells and will have mated queens later so let us know if you need any as orders taken now. We are also able to supply beehive equipment so let us know your requirements – take advantage of our bulk buying capabilities (orders may be col-

lected from Farmers Market on Sundays).

Stephen and Fiona Black
Bees-R-Us
685 Uruti Road, RD48, Urenui
Tel: 06 752 6860
bees@beesrus.co.nz

Just browsing

A blind man and his seeing eye dog walked into a store. When he gets in, he starts swinging his dog around. Upset by this, the manager of the store demanded to know what he was doing. The blind man calmly replied, "I'm just lookin' around."

DONT'S

- Don't feed drugs to control AFB.
- Don't scorch boxes to sterilize them.
- Don't try to control AFB by removing diseased frames.
- Don't extract honey from infected colonies.
- Don't feed bee-collected pollen to colonies.
- Don't feed extracted honey to bees.
- Don't let hives get robbed out.
- Don't shook swarm.
- Don't let stock knock over beehives.
- Don't use steam chests to sterilise infected equipment.
- Don't distribute the equipment from dead hives between other hives.

Don't allow colonies to die of varroa or any other cause.

Can Honey Help Sinuses?

Preliminary study finds it kills communities of bacteria
Canadian Press, 9/23/2008

TORONTO — Could honey some day become a sweet solution for people suffering from chronic rhinosinusitis?

Researchers at the University of Ottawa have conducted a study that found honey can kill biofilms, small communities of bacteria that adhere to mucus in the nose and that are resistant to antibiotics.

Preliminary findings were presented Tuesday in Chicago at a meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation. So far, work has only been done in the lab, and the next step is animal tests.

"It's cheap, it's cheaper than any antibiotic. It doesn't cause side-effects," Dr. Talal Alandjani, who led the study, said from Chicago about the potential of a honey-and-water solution to irrigate the nasal passages.

"The nice thing about it, if you don't like it, you can just irrigate it out with water."

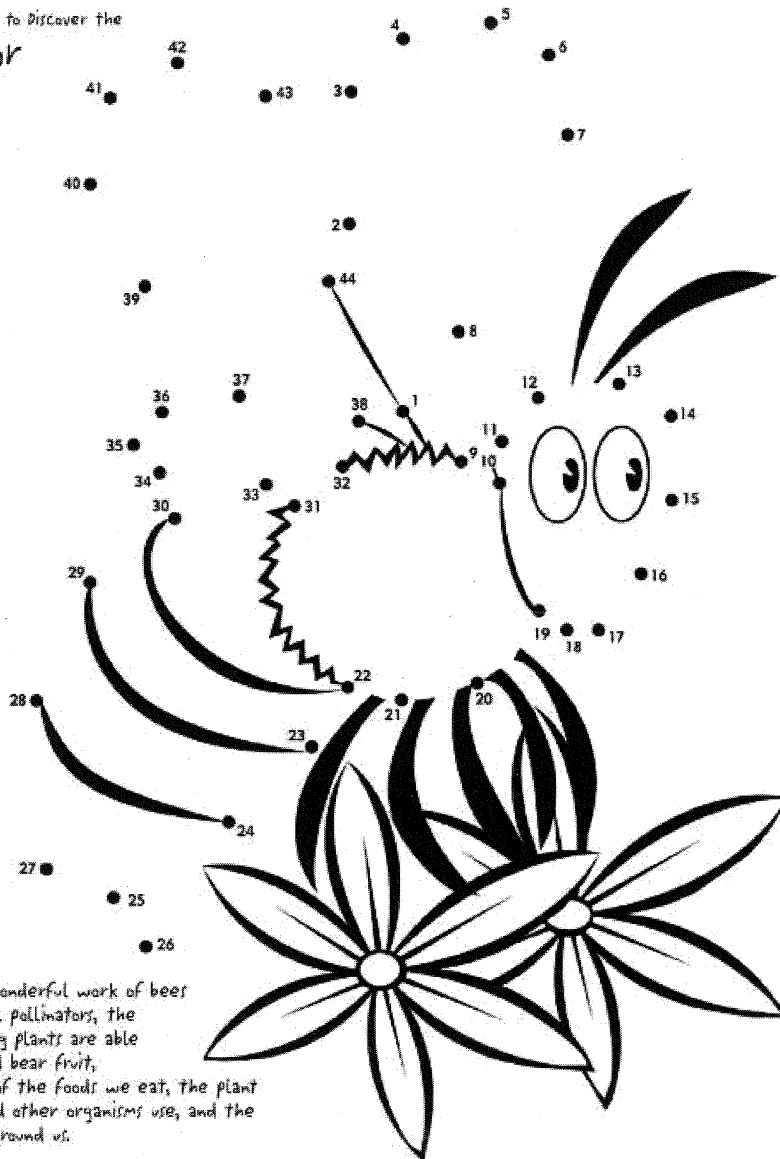
The research involved Manuka honey from New Zealand and Sidr honey from Yemen. Clover and buckwheat honeys from Canada were dropped from the study when they had no effect against the biofilms...



COLOUR ME IN

nbi Drawing Series

Connect the Dots to Discover the
Pollinator



Thanks to the wonderful work of bees and other animal pollinators, the world's flowering plants are able to reproduce and bear fruit, providing many of the foods we eat, the plant materials we and other organisms use, and the beauty we see around us.

Download more drawings like this at <http://images.nbi.gov>.

Jokes

Q: What does a bee get at McDonalds?

A: A hamburger!

Q: What buzzes, is black and yellow and goes along the bottom of the sea?

A: A bee in a submarine!

Q: What's more dangerous than being with a fool?

A: Fooling with a bee!

Q: What did the spider say to the bee?

A: Your honey or your life!

Q: Who is a bee's favorite painter?

A: Pablo Beecasso!

Q: What did the bee do to the other bee in summer?

A: Swarm here isn't it!

Q: What is a bee's favorite classical music composer?

A: Bee-thoven!

Q: Who writes books for little bees?

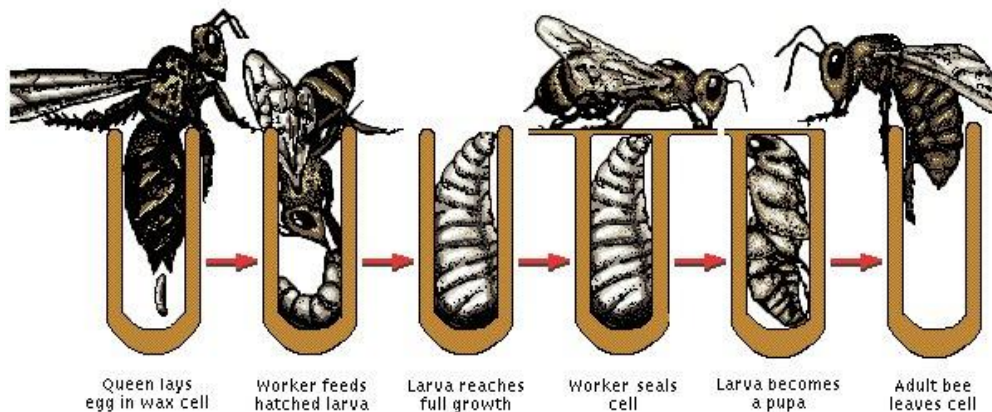
A: Bee-trix Potter!

Q: Where do bees go on holiday?

A: Stingapore!

Q: What do you call a bee who's had a spell put on him?

A: He's bee-witched!



Queen lays egg in wax cell

Worker feeds hatched larva

Larva reaches full growth

Worker seals cell

Larva becomes a pupa

Adult bee leaves cell

The queen honey bee may lay 1500 eggs in a single day. Worker bees feed the wormlike larva constantly-as many as 1300 times a day-after it hatches, sealing the cell when the grub has grown to fill it. The larva pupates in about 12 days, and the adult bee chews through the wax cap of its cell approximately three weeks after the eggs were first laid. Newly emerged adults perform various maintenance tasks until they are ready to begin foraging outside the hive.