



Beetalk September 2015

General info and news about bees

Hello and welcome.

Beetalk is a compilation of news from across the bee keeping word.

Its not affiliated to any beekeeping group so you wont get things like the next meeting and what we are doing and such like.

We hope that the articles provided will be useful to anyone interested in the a rewarding hobby and in some way we also hope that you may gain some pleasure in reading some of the article that are included.

Also we intend to include articles that may be helpful to anyone new to the hobby.

Being based in Lancashire it would be great for any contributions from Beekeepers from the county. But as stated above, please nothing about your association or group.

Hope you enjoy.

Editor

If you have any articles that you think may be useful to have included in Beetalk.

Please e-mail them to the editor

at

birt_192@hotmail.co.uk

RESPONDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED

From the excitement of swarming, which we have been looking at for the last two months, we now return to life inside the hive and to a consideration of some of the ways in which the colony uses cues from the hive to adjust its activity. Of course pheromones, dances and vibrations are also involved with these systems.

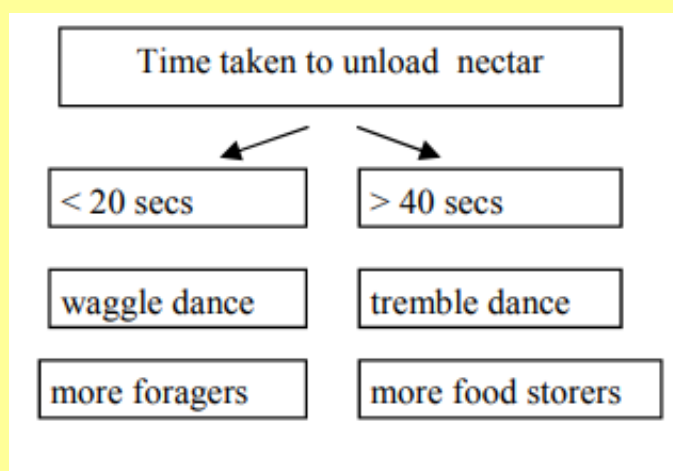
We will look at a three examples.

Rearing drones

During the Summer colonies have drones present. They start rearing the first drones early in the year and, from then onwards, drones and drone comb are generally present until late Summer. Although the numbers of drones reared depends to a large extent on colony size and resource availability, where large numbers of drones are lost from the colony, more will be reared. This can happen, for example, when sacrificial drone brood is used for Varroa control, but is also a natural process. It is not clear whether the control is ultimately pheromonal, but it probably is. Information on drone pheromones is meagre to say the least.

Food processing

Foragers bringing nectar into the hive do not unload it into cells, but give it to other house bees, called receiver bees. The speed at which unloading occurs influences the subsequent behaviour of the foragers: if their nectar load is accepted readily (20 seconds or less) by a few receiver bees, they will often go and dance to indicate to other foragers where the forage is. They may recruit other bees, who are resting, to observe waggle dances by vibrating them in a dorsoventral abdominal vibrating dance (DVAV dance). If, however, they are kept waiting to unload, (40 seconds or more) and have a long search for receivers, they will conclude that there is too much food coming into the hive for the food processors to handle and will not dance to recruit other workers to forage. They may instead move into the hive to attempt to recruit more receiver bees. This they do by performing a tremble dance. The bee runs about the comb on the hind two pairs of legs, holding its front pair of legs up, at the same time causing its whole body to twitch and tremble. This results in the recruitment of more bees to honey storing and processing duties. As a secondary effect, if the trembling bee encounters a bee performing the wagtail dance it head butts it, and briefly pipes, and this seems to be a stop signal. The dancing bee stops doing the waggle dance, does not therefore recruit more foragers and usually flies out of the hive. In this way the balance between returning foragers and receiver bees is restored. We can show this in a simple diagram



Food processing is of overwhelming importance to a colony if it is to survive the Winter and this very sophisticated system ensures that the whole process works as efficiently as possible.

Comb building

As we all know, bees will only draw new comb when they need it. That is why, when we provide our bees with new foundation, following a Bailey comb change or shook swarm, we need to feed them with weak syrup (1lb of sugar to 1 pint of water) unless they are on a very strong nectar flow. In the natural state a swarm begins to build comb very rapidly. This is essential as the queen has to have somewhere to lay so that the embryo colony can develop. The bees in the swarm will have brought food with them, which they can convert into wax, and many of the bees will be the right age for wax production. Once the initial comb building has taken place, wax production slows, and thereafter comb will only be built as it is needed: to accommodate the eggs that the queen is laying and the nectar stores that the foragers are bringing in. If they have existing space they will not produce more. How do they know? Do the patrolling bees, who walk around the hive apparently aimlessly, have a function here? If so, how do they communicate the needs to the wax-building bees? Is it another effect of slow receiver bees? After all if they take time to find a cell to put the nectar in, that may be an indication that more space is needed. Is the brood nest full? Is the queen having to look around to find a cell to lay in? How is this translated into a need for more comb? So many questions. And the more you think about the marvellous organisation in a bee colony, the more questions arise. That is the fascination, and the frustration, of looking at colony organisation. At some point a question about the intelligence of bees arises. At one time it was thought that everything a bee did was down to innate instinct. We now know that bees can work things out, remember and, to some extent, think. (There was a suggestion that they can recognise human faces – that may be good or bad, I have not decided yet!) How far this goes we do not know, but I suspect that there is still a lot more to learn about the marvellous but tiny brains that our bees possess

Laying workers

It is said that the best strategy for a colony which has laying workers is to 'dump them out' as it will not accept an introduced queen.

In May this year, I made up a nucleus with a grafted queen. She disappeared without starting to lay presumably because she was lost on a mating flight. I subsequently saw laying workers and I was going to dump them but had a spare virgin which I introduced in a cage, as there was nothing to lose. She was accepted, mated and laid up brood and there is now a supersedure queen cell.

So what happened here? My guess is that a virgin was more acceptable than a mature mated queen with ample amounts of queen substance.

Could this be an alternative management strategy for colonies with laying workers.

BEE STING

An excellent photo of a sting attached to skin, and the bee pulling away.

Remember always scrape the sting away, to minimise the amount of poison injected under the skin. If you pinch the sting, you squeeze all the contents out.



Stamping out poverty with honey

Buying a jar of African honey means:

- Income for some of the world's poorest people
- Forest conservation
- A delicious treat



Bees for Development Trust

We are an international organisation working to alleviate poverty in developing countries

We support communities to succeed with beekeeping

We help beekeepers to sell their honey to earn more for their families

Please help us to alleviate poverty by:

- Buying a jar of honey at our shop
- Volunteering with us
- Donating £3 a month



Bees for Development Trust

Supporting beekeepers in developing countries

Worldwide

- Providing training and information materials for community groups to improve their knowledge of beekeeping and business
- Publishing *Bees for Development Journal* keeping remote beekeepers in 130 countries up to date with news, practical advice and events

International Projects

We work with communities and partners to enable beekeeping incomes to increase

- **Uganda** – supporting beekeeping associations to access markets
- **Ethiopia** – strengthening market chains and training trainers
- **Kyrgyz Republic** – helping to solve land use conflicts for beekeepers
- **Cameroon** – better processing equipment for increased quality

The shop in Monmouth

All proceeds support our charitable work. We sell:

- A range of local honey and African honey
- Beekeeping equipment
- Gifts, cards and books – all bee-related

Information Gallery in Monmouth

- Learn about our work overseas
- See a range of beautiful bee hives
- Find out about beekeeping courses in this area



Bees for Development Trust, 1 Agincourt Street, Monmouth NP25 3DZ, UK
Telephone 01600 714848

www.beesfordevelopment.org

A few thoughts concerning autumn wasps

We beekeepers are encouraged to combine weak colonies for the winter, or at least to re-enforce the smaller ones, to improve their chances of surviving through to Spring. And to feed sugar syrup where necessary.

It is often this feeding with sugar syrup that precipitates robbing by wasps (and ironic that bees will sometimes starve without realising that there is ample syrup a short distance above, while wasps will apparently detect it from a quarter of a mile away ...). Strong colonies in sound hives can defend themselves against wasps; it is the weaker and smaller colonies that are most vulnerable to attack. It is most unpleasant to discover wasps inside a hive of bees, and if left unchecked the colony is likely to die out.

Wasps will readily find and use any alternative entrance to a hive, such as a small knot-hole or ill-fitting hive component, and this includes escape cones fitted to roofs. They will enter a smaller hole than will a honey bee (or at least they will enter a cone escape from the pointed end, which a honey-bee usually will not). Which means that reducing the entrance hole to a size which will prohibit wasps but allow honey bee access is not a viable strategy, (although it must prove useful in deterring hornets).

Reducing the entrance to about 7mm. or providing a tube entrance of about this diameter will give the persecuted bees a fighting chance of defending their domain. Wasps are reluctant to enter narrow guarded openings where they cannot deploy their sting. A sheet of glass in front of the entrance is also said to deter unauthorised visitors, but if the wasps have previously entered the hive in significant numbers, they will often continue to gain access regardless, and the colony is put at great risk.

A few thoughts concerning autumn wasps Because the problem with wasps occurs in the autumn, after the new wasp queens have been raised and departed their nests, I see no reason why the wasp nests should not be located and destroyed at this time. The remaining wasps which are causing the trouble will die anyway. They add little or no value in the autumn (so far as I can ascertain) and destroying the nests does nothing to reduce the wasp population the following year.

With a bit of patient watching on a sunny evening, the direction from which the invaders come can be determined ... There are proprietary wasp traps ('WaspBane' is worth a Google) and most of us have employed simple traps baited with jam or sweet fruit. I have seen warnings about putting sugar syrup in such traps, but have tried it with success (i.e. without killing honey bees). It takes a good few traps, positioned carefully, to have a serious impact on wasp numbers.

So, aside from plugging any extraneous holes and cracks (with 'gaffer tape; grass; twigs; 'Grip-Fill' ...) and reducing the entrance to a minimum, what else can be done to save a weak colony if the wasp nests cannot be located and dealt with? Moving the hive is an obvious possibility, but presumably not if it contains wasps, which have the potential to reveal the new location (it is clear from observation that wasps communicate new food sources very effectively, but I do not know quite how they do this).

Blocking the hive entrance for 24 hours and then opening the hive briefly towards dusk will usually cause imprisoned wasps to depart readily. After dusk the entrance can be sealed again and the hive moved. And here I am afraid that my thoughts peter out, rather. Our more experienced members must have some good advice on this subject, and I for one would very much welcome it.

Pesticide threat to bees to be investigated by parliament

A powerful group of MPs will quiz ministers on why, unlike in other countries, the mounting evidence of serious harm is not leading to action. Neonicotinoid pesticides can cause an 85% loss in the number of queens produced and a doubling in "disappeared" bees, those that fail to return from food foraging trips: Lena Ason/Alamy. On Wednesday, I accused the government of failing to act on the significant and growing evidence that neonicotinoid pesticides cause significant harm to bees. For my trouble, I was "mythbusted" by the department for environment, food and rural affairs (Defra). But I am far from alone in my concerns and I can now reveal that a full parliamentary enquiry is going ahead into the matter. Joan Walley MP, who chairs the House of Commons environmental audit committee, a powerful cross-party group that acts as parliament's green watchdog, sent this letter to the Guardian on Friday. Dear Sir Damian Carrington's blog on the government's response to recent research on the impact of insecticides on bee populations is timely (The silence of the bees). Last week the Environmental Audit Committee, which I chair, decided to undertake an inquiry looking at the effects of pesticide use in the UK on biodiversity with a specific focus on bees. As Damian's blog pointed out, the use (and abuse) of evidence in policy-making and formulating regulation is clearly at the heart of the matter. But there are other issues that I want our investigation to examine. What monitoring is there of actual - rather than recommended - levels of pesticide usage? What are the potential impacts of these insecticides on human health? And should Defra be encouraging alternative pest-control measures, such as natural predators and plant breeding for insect-resistance, in a bid to make UK farming more bee friendly? We will be announcing details of the inquiry soon.

In the meantime, Defra ministers may want to start doing their homework on pesticide policy and biodiversity, because we will be calling them before parliament to answer questions on these issues. In particular, we will be scrutinising the evidence behind the Government's decision not to revise pesticide regulations or follow other European countries in temporarily suspending the use of insecticides linked to bee decline. Joan Walley MP Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee House of Commons I have very little to add to that, beyond hoping that the MPs can flush out the trials

always cited by government and pesticide companies in defence of the chemicals, but which appear not to be in the public domain. The whole issue is very murky and the MPs will shed some very welcome light. Damian Carrington Friday 21 September 2012 16.07 BST guardian.co.uk Since the publication of this article in the Guardian, things have moved forward at a pace and the internet lobbying group 38 degrees have mounted a campaign to force the government to take further action.

At the pace at which it is moving, it may well have progressed further by the time that you read this.

editor

Beekkeepers keep fighting for the honeybee after the worst summer in decades

Honeybees are facing a multitude of enemies but a practical course looking at ways to combat one of the most common is open to beekeepers from across the South West when Somerset Beekeepers' Association's (SBKA) hold their first Development Day at Cheddar on Saturday, November 24th. The day of lectures and workshops at the Kings of Wessex Academy will examine ways to tackle the blood-sucking varroa mite, which weakens colonies and is responsible for wiping out most of the country's wild honeybee population. Organiser Ken Tredgett said: "The varroa mite resembles something out of Alien, and will hitch a ride on its victims to seek out new hives to infect. Untold numbers of wild hives have been wiped out, meaning the honeybee is utterly dependent on humans for survival. "Our inaugural development day will be the first of a new practical education programme to help beekeepers - both new and experienced - to learn how to keep their colonies as healthy as possible." The Development Day will be led by Richard Ball, retired National Bee Inspector from the National Bee Unit. He will look at the effect of the mite on honeybees and examine methods of biological control. He is a beekeeper himself and is Chairman of the Devon Apicultural Research Group. In addition there will be four workshops in the afternoon led by Master Beekeepers including Ron Hoskins of Wiltshire. Ron has been breeding bees for more than 18 years to help themselves by actively fighting varroa without the aid of chemical intervention. The conclusion to his observations was that worker bees in the colony were detecting the sealed brood cells that were infested with breeding varroa, then uncapping and removing larvae to break the breeding cycle. Honeybees are having a hard time thanks, in part, to one of the worst summers on record; some beekeepers are reporting a 90 per cent drop in yield while the total honey crop for England and Wales is estimated to be down 50 per cent. The prolonged period of cold and wet weather between April and August meant honeybees had less opportunity to leave their hives to gather nectar and pollen. Bees are an essential part of the food chain and are responsible for a third of all food, contributing more than £200 million annually to the UK economy alone. But the bee population in the UK has plummeted by 50 per cent over the last 20 years and by 30 per cent globally.

It's not just in the UK

Last month we suggested that the honey crop might even be significantly worse than last year's poor crop of 148 million pounds, which was the second lowest crop on record (2009 was the poorest crop on record with only 144 million pounds being produced). However, better-than-expected honey crops in the drought-ridden Midwest are likely to keep the U.S. crop in the 145 to 165 million pound range. Better honey production in the southern half of the country also helped U.S. honey production, despite very disappointing crops in California. However, reporters have also been quick to point out that their total honey production is still below what they would call a "normal" crop. In addition to the drought hurting honey production, beekeepers are still trying to rebuild their apiaries after several years of very heavy winter losses. They are also fighting continuing problems with poor queens, disease, pesticides, and loss of bee forage.

American Bee Journal



Two worker bees exchange food

SHARING

It is quite easy to see, while manipulating a colony, worker bees apparently feeding one another. Sometimes there may be three or four all with their tongues extended to one another and this process of food sharing, or trophallaxis, goes on continually. Food exchange may be initiated by a bee begging for food from another: she pushes her proboscis towards another bee and the targeted bee then opens its mandibles, pushes its proboscis forward and regurgitates a drop of nectar. Alternatively a donating bee may produce a drop of nectar and then approach another bee. Although the exchange is frequently from a worker with a full crop to one with less food, it does occur the other way round. It is very important to the general organisation of the colony and is a rapid means of spreading information between the hive inhabitants. Research work done by feeding coloured or radio-active nectar to a few workers showed that it was distributed to at least half of the bees within 24 hours.

The end result of this sharing is that the workers in a colony have a common 'colony stomach' in relation to the strength of nectar and the protein and other components. This gives knowledge of the nutritional status of the colony and will influence what they do to some extent as well as contributing to the general colony scent which allows bees from the same colony to recognise one another. Trophallaxis and nurse bees Nurse bees have an important part to play in trophallaxis. They feed the brood, the queen and also the young drones. None of these groups give food back. It is not generally understood that nurse bees also provide the older bees and foragers with small amounts of brood food to satisfy their need for protein, fats, minerals and vitamins. When pollen, and therefore brood food, is scarce, the brood has priority and there may be no protein rich brood food left for the older workers. This is a cue for the foragers to collect more pollen.

Conversely, when the foragers receive plenty of this brood food, it will inhibit further pollen collection in favour of nectar. A neat feedback mechanism which works with the processes we discussed last month. Transmission of pheromones Undoubtedly some pheromones are transmitted during food sharing. They may be contained in the food or they may be on the surface of the bee. While they share the food the participating bees also antennate, i.e. they stroke each other with their antennae. This will detect other pheromones which may be carried on the surface of the bee. It is probably significant that bees who have been tending the queen are more active food sharers for a time afterwards and this will be important in transmitting some of the queen pheromones. Recent investigations have suggested that trophallaxis may not always involve food at all but merely be a method for transmitting pheromones, but this is still unproven. Trophallaxis and dancing Bees performing the waggle dance give samples of the nectar they have collected to the surrounding bees, usually in response to begging from those bees. This helps them to recognise forage odour and gives them information about the quality of the nectar. To sum up, food sharing is another weapon in the armoury of hive communication to work in conjunction with dances and pheromones and ensure the smooth running of the colony as a whole.

October – Almost done!

Soon Beekeepers will have done their bit for the year and it will be time to leave the bees to their own devices over the coming winter months. This is a worrying time, especially for those in their first season. Will they survive the winter? Should I have a look inside the box? My advice is to leave them alone because opening the box disturbs their winter stasis and breaks the propolis seals they have lovingly used to make their home cosy. Normally all that is needed over the winter is to: Heft the hive regularly to ensure the stores are holding out. Monitor the natural Varroa mite fall so you can decide if a winter treatment is needed. Ensure the mouse guards and woodpecker netting is secure. Check that the entrance is clear as sometimes it can be blocked by dead bees or leaves. Visit every few weeks or after storms to ensure all is secure. Watch out for a leaky box or roof as the wet weather can swell joints – a bit of waterproof tape or plasters will make do. This is when having a spare roof(s) is useful. If during your regular visits a colony gives cause for concern then how do you assess if they are alive? Well don't just split the box but gently lift the roof – noise and jarring will disturb them – and smell, listen and feel over the feeder hole. Can you feel heat? Does it smell fresh? Can you hear their murmurings below? You can also bend down with your ear pressed against the brood box to listen for their activities, a single tap on the box while doing this will confirm their presence. If after all that you cannot detect life then maybe I would split the crown board off. However, ask yourself “What can I do?” Well not much if they are dead besides taking the box home and cleaning it up. I always find this a sad task because somehow I feel I have failed my duty of care! I know that sometimes things just happen but it still does not negate the feeling. A question often asked is “Should I leave the floor inserts in or out?” Again it depends on who you ask and what the weather is like and/or the time of year. Over the active season I only put them in when checking the mite levels and when treating with Apiguard. Over the autumn and winter I leave them out unless monitoring the mite drop; this aids ventilation and allows moisture to leave but please note that I DO NOT leave the feeder holes open nor have ventilation in the hive roof. To do so would create a chimney affect to remove vital heat. Come the new year I tend to put the slides back in again to help retain a little more heat for early season brood rearing but ensure that I scrape then clean at each visit.

Number of worker bees in your colony	Will have fallen to around 20,000	
Number of drones in your colony	None	
Number of queens	One.	A few may have 2 during supersedure.
Number of eggs being laid by the queen	Brood rearing will continue until the first cold spell but will be reduced to a few tens a day at most.	This reduced brood period/break is a natural check to Varroa's reproduction.
Amount of brood	A small patch.	This will be in the centre of the central frames where the bees can cluster around it overnight to keep it warm (34°C)
Average age of workers	The winter bees will be young in physiology and have large fat bodies as there is little brood to feed and so they can survive till next March/April.	
Colony activity	They may only be active for short each day and at night they will cluster consuming food to stay warm. The time they remain clustered will increase as the month passes.	Warm days will tempt them out to the loo and to see if there is any forage on the ivy and any other forage. The first frost will put pay to this.

Beekeeper's actions for this month: Feeding should be completed by now. Varroa control should have finished but do remove any residues and ekes. Remove floor inserts for the winter. Fit mouse guards and woodpecker netting. If hives are in exposed situation think about strapping them down. Visit hive regularly to monitor food levels and natural mite drop. Finish storing unused equipment and start the winter repair work. Start thinking about the new season and spring! Nectar sources will be very scarce but a few plants flower late; water balsam and ivy can provide nectar and pollen before the frost blackens them. Next month I will reflect on the past year and what may come.

Bee Curiosities

It is said that the best strategy for a colony which has laying workers is to 'dump them out' as it will not accept an introduced queen. In May this year, I made up a nucleus with a grafted queen.

She disappeared without starting to lay presumably because she was lost on a mating flight. I subsequently saw laying workers and I was going to dump them but had a spare virgin which I introduced in a cage, as there was nothing to lose. She was accepted, mated and laid up brood and there is now a supersedure queen cell.

So what happened here? My guess is that a virgin was more acceptable than a mature mated queen with ample amounts of queen substance. Could this be an alternative management strategy for colonies with laying workers? _____

In May a nuc with a clipped queen swarmed and the queen was found in a queenless colony about 8 feet away with entrance facing.

I guess she was such a valuable commodity that she was grabbed and bee handled by the queenless colony. In September 2011, an attempt at supersedure was made and mother and daughter have coexisted for the last year.

I have never seen daughter laying but I left them alone to see what would happen.

At the beginning of September there were two supersedure cells in the colony, and I awaited with interest to see how many queens there would be in this colony, one, two or four! But they were swarm cells...!!

Question -

What are the different roles of worker bees during the Summer? During the Summer worker bees have a hard life – the outside bees are always on the move, gathering nectar, packing pollen and flying backwards and forwards to their hive. So how is all this organised? It certainly is not random but is controlled, so that everything gets done in the most efficient manner. A worker bee changes its activities in, and out of, the hive according to its age. This is given the grand name of ‘age polyethism’ and is broadly in response to the development of various glands. There are no hard and fast rules however and basically an individual bee can do virtually anything at any age, but not always with the same efficiency.

Newly-hatched Workers

The little pale furry bees that crawl out of their cells start their lives as cleaners. This requires nothing special other than the salivary glands. They also consume great quantities of bee bread, which is preserved pollen and is a highly nutritious food containing a high level of protein as well as fats, vitamins and minerals. This diet results in the development of the hypopharyngeal and mandibular glands, two pairs of head glands which produce brood food and royal jelly.

Three – Fifteen Days

With highly developed hypopharyngeal and mandibular glands, packed full of larval food, the bees move on to the next job and become nurse bees, feeding and tending larvae of all types, and the adult queen. They continue to eat bee bread and their wax glands begin to develop. A large force of well fed nurse bees is essential to the build up of a colony in Spring and Summer and to the production of healthy bees in Autumn.

Ten – Eighteen Days

This is the period during which the wax glands, four pairs of glands on the underside of the abdomen, reach their maximum development, so these bees are the prime wax-producers. To produce a lot of wax requires an incoming supply of nectar (or sugar syrup) and some of the substances found in the pollen are also essential. A swarm requires large numbers of these bees to build its new combs, and this is one of the reasons why foraging slows when a swarm is expected. It allows these middle aged bees to remain ‘younger’. Sixteen – Twenty Days The hypopharyngeal glands, as they decrease in size and no longer produce brood food, secrete greater quantities of two enzymes: sucrase (also called invertase) and glucose oxidase. These are essential in the processing of nectar to honey, so these bees will be concerned with receiving nectar from the foragers and converting the surplus into honey. The mandibular glands switch to the production of 2-heptanone, an alarm pheromone particularly concerned with repelling robbers. Notice that all these periods overlap and also that as the individual moves from feeding brood to making wax and then processing nectar, she will move outwards in the nest, nurse bees being found in the central part and the nectar processors towards the outer areas.

Outside Bees = Twenty Days - Death

Finally our bee graduates to outside jobs. Her mandibular alarm pheromones and sting pheromones together with her maximum production of venom, enable her to guard the entrance, and a few bees always do this, as we well know. These are usually bees around 21 days old and this cohort also does ventilating duties if necessary, although older bees may revert to these jobs. The Nasonov gland reaches peak development around this time and most bees become foragers for the last 2 weeks or so of their lives, collecting nectar, pollen, propolis and water. Once they move outside the hive their body clocks are ticking quite rapidly towards their death. They are literally ‘worked to death’.

An Adaptable System

It is important to stress that the work done by an individual bee will vary according to the requirements of the colony, so, in a colony which has lost most of its foragers due to poisoning, for example, bees will become foragers at an earlier age or, if careless manipulation by the beekeeper results in the removal of large numbers of nurse bees, older bees can revert to feeding brood by increasing their intake of bee bread and re-developing their head glands. It is important to understand the make-up of the colony in terms of bees of different ages and to try to maintain this well-balanced state of affairs as far as possible.

The Georgics of Virgil - Book 4 Translated by C Day Lewis

Page 4

Since life brings to the bees the same bad luck as to humans,
They may suffer severe illness -
An epidemic you'll know by certain definite signs.
The sick change colour at once, and their faces are deformed
By dreadful emaciation: the bodies of the dead
They carry out of doors and bear in a sad cortege:
With clutching feet they hang
From the doorway, or moon about within their closed mansion
Listless with hunger all, numbed by a cramping cold.



Then there is heard a deeper sound a hum sustained
As when a chill south wind murmurs among woods
Or the waves of a troubled sea moan and hiss at the ebb-tide
Or fierce flames roar heaving behind a furnace door.
I recommend here that you burn the pungent galbanum,
An instil honey through pipes of reed, going out of your way
To coax the invalid creatures back to familiar food.

A Simple Wasp Trap



BeeNews DIY Suggestion

Making your own is fun and saves money

Take a plastic pop bottle and cut off the top third. Invert the cut-off piece and push it into the lower portion. When this is half filled with liquid bait, it attracts wasps to enter the trap but they find it difficult to escape, just like a lobster pot.

Bait Mixtures

Bait mixture are like many things in beekeeping - everyone has their favourite brew.

- Never use honey (unless you want to catch bees).
- Try a watery mixture of beer, vinegar, sugar and salt. The wasps are attracted to the sweet and sour scent but bees are not.
- Add a dash of washing liquid - by reducing surface tension, the wasps sink and drown.
- Meat can be a good choice when wasps are making nests and laying eggs because they are seeking protein - you may even catch a queen.



Tips

- The bait should not reach the up-turned opening of bottle.
- To prevent rain diluting your bait, fit a lid (eg plastic plate) an inch or two above it, or hang it under cover.
- Hang the trap in a tree with its base well clear of vegetation.
- Hang one trap upwind and one downwind of your hives, at least five metres away.
- Traps fill up surprisingly quickly so empty them regularly. Take care that the wasps are all dead! Pour hot, soapy water into the funnel (the up-turned neck of the bottle) to make sure.
- Bury the dead wasps, or flush them down the toilet, as their bodies might release a chemical that alerts the rest of the colony to their fate.
- Another tip is to line the top of the trap with yellow or bright orange tape. Wasps are attracted to this colourful line.

Unfortunately, wasp traps also attract and trap beneficial insects such as native hornets, lacewings and hoverflies, which are a natural pest control of aphids.

The late Dave Cushman's website has some excellent information on other wasp traps.

Wasps have their place in the ecosystem. They're particularly helpful in controlling pests that wreck crops. But when they happen to make their nest too close to home and pose a danger to people, or attack bee hives they certainly become pests themselves.

NORTHERN BEE BOOKS

only a phone call away for the widest range

01422 882751

www.groovycart.co.uk/beebooks

<http://beekeepers.peacockmagazines.com>



Northern Bee Books

Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge HX7 5JS (UK)

Phone: 01422 882751 Fax: 01422 886157

This month we return to the recipes collected by **Audrey Gill**, with - savoury pork and sweet vegetables plus flapjacks, scrumptious ! We would like volunteers to make the recipes, and send in photographs of how splendid they look, and reports about how good they taste !!

Please send your favourite honey recipe or interesting culinary use to the editors.

Recipe (9) Flap Jacks



3 tablespoons **Honey**
4 ounces Demerara Sugar
4 ounces Butter
6 ounces Porridge Oats
2 ounces Desiccated Coconut
1 Egg
1 teaspoon Baking Powder
0.5 teaspoon Salt

Put the sugar butter and honey in a heavy based saucepan and heat gently until melted. Remove from the heat and stir in the remaining ingredients. Press into a shallow greased 8 inch square baking tin and bake in a moderate oven 180°C or Gas Mark 4 until golden and firm to the touch.
Remove from the oven and leave for 5 minutes, then mark into squares and leave to cool. When completely cold loosen with a palette knife and lift each square carefully from the tin.

Recipe (10) Pork in Cider



4 tablespoons **Honey**
2 ounces of Butter
2 lb Pork fillet cut into cubes.
4 Shallots (chopped)
0.25 teaspoon ground
Cardamom Salt and Pepper
0.5 pint Dry Cider
A strip of Lemon Peel
A strip of Orange Peel

Melt the butter in a casserole and brown the meat on all sides.
Add the shallots, honey, orange and lemon peel and season with the cardamom, salt and pepper. Pour over the cider and bring to the boil.
Cover the casserole tightly and transfer to a preheated oven, 180°C or Gas Mark 4 and cook for 0.5 to 1 hour.
Lift out the meat and reduce the cooking liquid to serve as a sauce.

Recipe (11) Honey Glazed Vegetables



2 dessertspoons **Honey**
2 ounces Butter

Many of us like to pop a knob of butter on to our cooked vegetables before serving; but have you tried a spoonful of honey as well? The result on new peas is wonderful.

Root vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, parsnips and onions can be boiled in the usual way, and then coated with a mixture of honey and butter, before baking in a moderate oven at 180°C or Gas Mark 4 until they are nicely browned and glazed.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
FOLLOWING.**

NORTHERN BEE BOOKS
OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS OR SO WE
BEEKEEPERS HAVE HAD
TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FROM NORTHERN BEE BOOKS. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THEM BY
PUBLICISING THEIR WEBSITE
WWW.BEEDATA.COM
THE POSTAL ADDRESS IS:
NORTHERN BEE BOOKS
SCOUT BOTTOM FARM
MYTHOLMROYD
HEBDEN BRIDGE HX7 5JS
PHONE 01422 882751
BY THE WAY, THEIR
CONCESSIONARY RATE
www.beedata.com/beebooks.htm

UK Honey Labelling Regulations

*Below is our simple advice on honey labelling.
For more detailed information - go to the website
of the Food Standards Agency. www.food.gov.uk*

- 1. The Word "HONEY" is required.*
- 2. The weight must be on the label - we will ensure it is the legal size and format.*
- 3. You can specify the area where the honey is produced. For example, Lincolnshire, Forest of Dean, Scottish Borders.*
- 4. You can specify the type of honey. For example, Heather, Borage. The honey must be at least 75% of that particular type.*
- 5. If you are selling the honey, you must have your name and address on the label. It does not need to be complete but you should be able to be found from the information.*
- 6. If you are selling the honey through a third party, you must have a lot number.*
- 7. New for 2003 You must have a best before date on the jar. We suggest 2-5 years from now.*
- 8. New for 2003 You must have a country of origin on the jar. For example - Produce of England, Product of Scotland, Harvested in Wales. Adding the country to the end of your address is not acceptable.*

E H Thorne (Beehives) Ltd disclaims all responsibility for all consequences of any person acting on, or refraining from acting in reliance on, information contained above.

From EH Thorne's online catalogue 2010 - other sources are available

Holidays

Tired with the noise and pollution and the same old Costa Holiday?????Then why not try a different Costa Holiday.

Come to Costa Geminiano

An Italian Rustic Farmhouse in the mountains of Emilia

Romagna Province of Parma

The property is situated at 650 metres above sea level on the edge of a small quiet village amid beautiful unspoilt Countryside. The nearest town Bardi is 12km away.

Accommodation comprises of 3 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom. Self catering with meals can be arranged if requested. Guaranteed no Internet, no TV, no en suite bedrooms, no discos and frilly duvets- just the sounds of birds, cockerel alarm call and bees. Bring your own veil and walking boots for exploring the countryside.

Price per week 650 euros. Short stay B & B @ 30 euro per night

Interested, need to know more ring Jenny on 0039052576169



The last of Apis cerana?

The Asian hive bee is suffering a precipitous decline and is threatened with extinction in its entire native habitat.

This has already happened in Japan where this native bee species has been completely replaced by the European honeybee.

Today in Japan only a few beekeepers and research institutes maintain Apis cerana colonies. In China, out of more than 8.5 million colonies of bees kept in modern hives, 70% are exotic Apis mellifera.

Similarly, in South Korea, only 16% of beekeeping is with native Apis cerana. In the Hindu Kush, Himalayan range, beekeeping with Apis cerana is being replaced by Apis mellifera at such a rate that the population of the native Apis cerana is declining to a level that is no longer viable. From Bee World Dec 11.