SMALL HIVE BEETLE
IS IN OREGON NOW
by Lynn Royce, Ph.D.
with collaboration by Mary C. Moss

Oregon Beekeepers now need to be alert for the Small Hive Beetle!

Indeed, the Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*) has been identified from colonies in Oregon. Kudos to the Oregon State Department of Agriculture’s Jim LaBonte for his quick identification.

This beetle originates from Africa, where it is a minor pest of honey bees. More importantly, it also is a pest of honey houses and sometimes weak colonies of honey bees.

There is a good possibility that this beetle was first transported to the US by fruit shipments (truck or cargo containers). The earliest collection of these beetles occurred in 1996 in Charleston, South Carolina where it sat unidentified for some time. In 1998, it was collected from honey bee colonies in Florida. These beetles are now found on three continents. In other regions of the world yet to be identified, they will likely spread as well. Even strong honey bee colonies have succumbed to the effects of small hive beetles and died in heavily-infested areas. Damage from small hive beetles to honey bee colonies is more apparent in the newly established areas of the world.

It is interesting to note that, apparently, African honey bee subspecies possess behavioral traits which allow them to prevent small hive beetle depredation.

Studies suggest that beetles newly emerged from the soil may live for several days in search of a new host bee colony or other food source. The beetles are also adept at duping the house bee into feeding a soliciting, hungry beetle.

Concern over possible small hive beetle damage to other commodities such as fruits has been raised. There is the possibility of beetle regeneration on fruit in the wild when no bee colonies are present. Since small hive beetles can survive for several days on various fruits, beetles could possibly be transported by fruit truck or cargo shipments to non-infested areas of the world.

They use their sense of smell during dispersal flights to locate new food sources. Food odors include adult worker bees, fresh pollen, open honey, slumgum and beetle pheromones. Mature females will lay up to 1,000 eggs after mating. Eggs are laid in clusters, in cracks or other secluded areas protected from easy detection by worker bees.

In weaker colonies, eggs may be laid in the brood area. Larvae move through the comb feeding on honey and brood. They are cream-colored and about an inch long at maturity. The larval period averages about 13 days, but can be as short at 6 days under good conditions.

Small hive beetle adults are good fliers, traveling a few miles in a single flight. But they are probably best distributed by movement of colonies, packages and equipment. Adults fly around dusk, with males flying earlier than females.

(continued on Page 6)
The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published ten times a year. Subscriptions are included with OSBA membership.

To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan Street NW, Salem, OR 97304.

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Business ads, per issue:

- Business-card size: 10.00
- Quarter-page: 25.00
- Half-page: 50.00
- Full-page: 100.00

Copy, art and payment must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Contact the Editor for any special requirements and mechanical information.

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President’s Message
by Kenny Williams
will return next month
Oregon State Beekeepers Association
Executive Board Meeting
Salem, Oregon
May 21, 2005

The Executive Board meeting of the OSBA was called to order by Kenny Williams at 1:40 PM with 17 in attendance. We had several guests in attendance as interested parties to determine how members can donate to the OSU research fund. Also in attendance were Peter Schroeder, Jim Labonte and Jim Cramer to help us understand the Small Hive Beetles.

The minutes were read from the previous meeting. Fritz Skivin made a motion that the minutes be approved and it was seconded by Phyllis Shoemake.

Phyllis presented the Treasurer’s Report. We have over $25,000 in income for this year and her recommendation is to go to the CPA this year because it will be necessary to file a return with the IRS. Fritz asked Phyllis to change the title from “cash on hand” to Total Assets. With that being the only change, Jan Lohman moved to accept the report and Fritz Skivin seconded the motion.

SMALL HIVE BEETLE
Jim Cramer (ODA) reported that John Jacob called him several weeks ago about finding SHB in hives he was helping with in Oregon. An Oregon Beekeeper purchased the hives in California. It is not known yet, but suspected that they originated in Florida. The hives have been split and some sold to a Washington Beekeeper. The ODA will act on this problem as the OSBA directs them, subject to resources available they are willing to help us, but need direction. There is an informative article in Bee World (09/04) pages 51-59 if interested in learning more. The ODA will be glad to look at samples of beetles in the hive and willing to assist in sending information out (PEST ALERT). Also Pete Schroeder of Southern Oregon University has volunteered his time to help us with this problem. Jim Labonte, State Entomologist described the life cycle of the Small hive Beetle and the damage it can cause.

Kenny asked for remarks from the board concerning what we would like the ODA to do. Fritz suggested a package summarizing SHB and to add the SHB to the Workshop Agenda. Debbie Morgan suggested that the information be sent to The Oregonian and the Capitol Press. Chuck Sowers suggested a special Beeline with information to all on the Workshop Data Base – not just members of the OSBA. Kenny suggested getting in touch with George Hansen for the Database information. In a previous conversation with George he suggested that information be placed on the OSBA Website to cover changes in problems and management for our bees.

(Continued on Page 4)
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES - (Continued)

The industry is in such an unsure position currently that we need to address these situations as quickly as possible when information becomes available and the website is a good place to do this. Kenny will check with George Hansen, Lynn Royce, and Pete Schroeder to compile the list.

Chuck Sowers made a motion for the OSBA to gather information and send it to all Workshop Database recipients and to also include a copy of the Beeline as soon as possible. John Jacob seconded the motion. Fritz moved that the OSBA reach the ODA to supply information to the press and it was seconded by Bob Allen.

ENTOMOLOGY POSITION AT OSU AND RESEARCH FUNDING
Kenny met with Anita Azarenko about endowing a chair for OSU through the OSU Foundation. The Foundation is separate from the University. The interested people in Oregon and Out of State that have funds available could donate to the Endowed Chair, but the OSBA would sign an agreement with the OSU Foundation setting parameters for the position. We would spell out a job description and terms, and the cost for the chair is two million dollars. If we can gather between $500,000 and $700,000 a position could be opened up. Money is political pressure. It was requested that more information be available before the board approve of signing a contract with the OSU Foundation. Kenny will talk to the Foundation and report back at our next meeting in late August. Fritz made a motion that Kenny negotiates with the OSU Foundation to establish an Endowed Chair for the Entomology Position at OSU and to report on start-up costs. John Jacob seconded the motion.

Harry Vanderpool discussed Regional Groups coming up with donations for the OSBA Research Fund as a group. It was decided to leave the “money-making” efforts to the regions as they see fit and John Jacob has volunteered to coordinate the efforts by keeping in touch with each region and making suggestion about what is working. Fritz Skirvin moved that we develop a Donor Card for the Research Fund to send out to the Database list. Jan Lohman volunteered to develop the card and Deb Morgan offered to help. Mike Harrington seconded the motion. It was decided to get the Donor Card in the BeeLine as soon as possible and also include it with the package sent out for information about problems in the industry.

FALL CONFERENCE
Harry reported that the Fall Conference is scheduled for October 27th, 28th, and 29th at the Agate Beach Inn at Newport and the theme is KEEPING YOUR BEES ALIVE.

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Phyllis has researched the cost of Liability Insurance for the OSBA so that our membership is covered when at fairgrounds, etc. The cost is $200 per year and she suggested that we pay the additional fees rather that asking our regions to do it so that we will have coverage for fairs and other events. Harry made a motion that we change our insurance to cover this liability insurance, Fritz seconded the motion and it passed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Lohman
Secretary
**NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING TIPS - JULY**

By Harry Vanderpool, WVBA

*Provide water continuously.

*Examine supers frequently but don’t leave much empty comb on colonies that are light on stores in the brood nest. Add supers only to the top of filled ones, not below them, unless hives are near a commercial crop. Then, add supers below filled ones.

*Check colonies for queen, and requeen if necessary. Requeen any colony with undesirable characteristics, such as poor production, mean temper, European Foulbrood, poor brood pattern, bad attitude, etc.

*If you find a colony hopelessly queenless, or with a laying worker, move the hive several yards and place a nucleus in a brood box in its place. Shake all of the bees from the original colony on the ground. Sort through the combs and reassemble the hive. Fortify the nuc with a frame of emerging brood if available. Repeat with two frames in a week. Watch their feed as fall approaches!

*Consider combining colonies that have reduced population due to a known cause such as queenlessness.

*Make preparations to extract. Remove supers containing well-ripened honey to extract, and then get it done before things cool down.

*Set plans in place for your fall treatment and medication. Put your plan in writing and then follow it to the letter. This document will help you assess the efficacy of your pest control strategy.

*Test random colonies for Varroa load. Follow up after your fall treatment is concluded with another test. If you are unsure or do not feel confident in your testing procedures, ask a senior beekeeper for help.

*Continue to be on the lookout for American Foulbrood.

*Don’t turn your best workers into robber bees by exposing honey or cappings.

*Place any extracted honey frames to be stored in a dry, cool area, with moth crystals.

*Depending on your apiary location and on the weather, a critical nectar dearth exists between July 10 and September 1 in this area. Leave 40-50 lbs. of honey in each colony for fall buildup or feed equivalent amount of syrup (2:1). Feed supplementary pollen patties if stored pollen is inadequate and pollen dearth exists.

*Set aside an hour or two each week to work on entries for the State Fair.

*Plan to attend your next association’s monthly meeting. There will be newer beekeepers attending who will appreciate your thoughts.

**FORMIC ACID IN STOCK**

Ruhl Bee Supply has notified us that they have the newly-approved Formic Acid treatment materials available for purchase now in their store. See their display ad elsewhere in this newsletter for contact information.

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These beetles overwinter as adults within the honeybee cluster. The startling picture of a worker honey bee feeding an adult beetle suggests to me that the relationship of this beetle with honey bees is an old one.

CONTROL
Chemical: Use of Coumaphos strips on the bottom board stapled to corrugated cardboard that the beetles can crawl under.
* Biological control is aimed at the larvae entering the soil and the pupae. There is research on several fungal pathogens, nematodes, predators (such as ants), parasitoids both wasps and flies.

CULTURAL NOTES FOR THE BEEKEEPER:
Reducing colony stress conditions and maintaining strong, productive colonies are highly recommended, especially in areas where beetles are problematic. Any practice which helps to maintain well-populated colonies and that reduces the comb-to-bee ratio and excludes beetles from the brood area is recommended, including the following:
* Don’t oversuper; it gives the beetle too many places to hide from the bees.
* Swarm control is important since swarming weakens the colony.
* Freeze deadouts to kill any remaining beetles.
* Sugar patties may aggravate beetle problems by attracting adults beetles to a colony.
* Reduce the likelihood of brood disease, mite problems and wax moth activity by using approved treatments and strictly following recommended application procedures. Using paradichlorobenzene as a fumigant in stored comb for wax moth control has also been suggested for beetle control. This chemical is considered a carcinogen and I am not sure I want to recommend its continued use.
* Push-in cages for requeening allows beetles to infest an area with only the queen present. Be watchful for failing queens, which can also promote invasion by the small hive beetle.
* Boardman feeders present sugar odors and spaces for beetles to hide.
* Take care not to leave pollen traps on a colony too long (no longer than 1-2 days).

Where beetles are developing in a honey house, a high relative humidity is important for their larvae. So, maintenance of drier conditions and good sanitation in the honey house is important. Household bleach is recommended as an effective material for killing beetle adults and larvae in honey houses.

Selecting apiary sites with drier soil conditions is recommended; open, sunny sites are recommended. In commercial agricultural settings where fields are often irrigated, beekeepers should place bee colonies several meters from irrigated areas to minimize beetle regeneration which is promoted by moist soil conditions.

There is also concern about our native non-Apis bees. This applies especially to bumble bees, since they live in a semi-social state and store honey and pollen in larger quantities than many solitary bees.

For now, there are lots of questions and not enough answers. At present, no guidelines exist for beekeepers to determine the beetle infestation level inside bee colonies that warrants treatment. In some states around the country, the small hive beetle is regarded as simply a nuisance and has not been accorded pest status as yet. So, the development of beetle treatment thresholds will enhance the integrated management of this pest, resulting in fewer treatments and less cost to the beekeeper, along with less chance of hive product contamination.

Vigilance is the watchword; we need to know if the beetles are moving northward from Klamath Falls. Specimens can be brought in for identification to Dr. Royce’s I will no longer be at OSU come June 30, but I will be happy to look at beetles for beekeepers; use my business and home address (below) or the ODA.

Mitebee farm
30807 Decker Ridge Rd
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
541-929-5337 mitebee@peak.org
Insect Identification Specialist
Plant Clinic, Botany and Plant Pathology, 1089 Cordley Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-2903 (541) 737-5520
e-mailto:roycel@science.oregonstate.edu

For a more complete look at the small hive beetle problem, please visit the OSBA Website at orsba.org, where we have posted a link to the complete article on the subject by William Michael Hood. The article appeared in BEE WORLD, September 2004 and includes useful maps, diagrams and drawings of apiary amendments. Dr. Hood will be speaking at the OSBA Fall Conference this year, as well. The OSBA Executive Board is also addressing the problem.

We strongly recommend that area and regional bee clubs print out copies of Dr. Hood’s article and circulate them to club members who don’t have Internet access.
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I thought you might like a few pictures I took of some hives after someone (a wannabe or wants-to-increase-apiary beekeeper) removed a few frames of bees. 32 hives in this spot pollinating radish. They removed 8 frames from the top box of 2 hives and 7 from another. We keep 9 to a box. Great fun cleaning up the mess.

---Chuck Sowers, Canby, Oregon

Notice the mess the frame thief left on and in the robbed hives. Kind of odd, isn’t it, that the thief didn’t just take entire supers--or complete hives, for that matter?!

This is the type of idiocy none of us wants to see. Let us hope that whoever did this is not an OSBA member . . .

If you have photographs and/or anecdotes to share, contact the editor and we’ll include them in a future issue of this newsletter.
The Controversy Over Royal Jelly

by Thom Trusewicz

Okay, it isn’t the Florida election process, the war with Iraq, or Roe vs. Wade, but royal jelly is a controversial subject on many levels. Aside from Vegans and PETA members who are against all aspects of beekeeping, royal jelly is a substance that proponents claim to be nectar from the fountain of youth. Royal jelly is used as an additive to cosmetics, lotions and as nutritional dietary supplements. Most of the world’s supply of royal jelly comes from China, Japan and Korea, with Japan making most of the purchases. As a beekeeper you can produce your own, but it is labor intensive. You need to dedicate your entire hive or several hives to the process, meaning forget about all other honey production.

First you remove your queen and replace her with frames of artificial queen cells. Then place 12-36 hour old larva in each cell. Remember that bees need a lot of pollen to produce royal jelly. After three days you remove the frames, discard the larva and scoop out the royal jelly. A good yield is 200-300mg per cup. It can be refrigerated, frozen or freeze-dried.

You can buy this product from most health food outlets, but remember that bee products from China are probably under intense scrutiny since illegal medications showed up in imported honey in 2001. This means that the price may be higher than in the past. Prices found on the Internet run about $65 dollars per pound.

As for the main controversy that surrounds royal jelly, it is sold as a product that will prevent all sorts of bad human conditions and cure most anything you presently have wrong with you. However there have been no blind studies and little research done with this product in the US. All claims for health benefits are anecdotal at best.

Royal jelly is 66% water, between 4.5 and 17% ash, between 11-13% carbohydrates, 12% protein, 5% fat and 3% vitamins, ether extracts, enzymes and coenzymes (Sammatato 1998). One fatty acid substance in royal jelly is called 10hydroxydecenoic acid. Its nutritional and antibiotic value to humans is promising but unfortunately, this being an acid, it becomes neutralized in any environment with a pH of 5.6 and above. The pH of a human body is 7.4, which makes this fatty acid useless to humans when consumed in royal jelly.

The health supplement industry insists on boasting the unfounded claims of royal jelly, but the fact is that there is no evidence that royal jelly is any better than a multi-vitamin or honey and bee pollen.

The nutrients found in royal jelly are just right for raising queen bees, but are of no proven consequence to humans who could get more complex nutrition by having a healthy diet. Since large amounts of pollen are needed to make royal jelly there may be increased incidences of allergic reaction to this supplement.

If you venture into the murky waters of royal jelly, be sure your label makes no unproven claims, and warns of possible allergic reactions. Better yet, do some scientific studies and publish your findings. You could give the market for this product a reason for being or a reason for not being.

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pdxpete57@msn.com
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breadstick@ccwebster.net
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503-632-3682
Meeting Notification:
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holdern@pacifier.com
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5005  Third Street, Tillamook
Forestry Building
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tfullan@nehalemtel.net
Sec/Treas: Wayne Auble

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todbalsiger@msn.com
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lrsnits@hotmail.com

Continued on next page
Membership and Publications

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is open to anyone who has an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. OSBA membership is $20 per person and includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on other publications and ten issues of The Bee Line. Membership outside the US is $29.

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If you circled Yes, please circle any information on the above form that you do not want included on the list. The OSBA respects the privacy of their members and will never sell any information supplied.

Start your savings now! Get a discount on the following subscriptions through the OSBA:

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*If you are a member of an OSBA Branch Association, make your check payable to that Branch and attach this form. The Branch Association Treasurer should submit this form and a check to OSBA, retaining $1 for the Branch Association. If you are not a member of a Branch Association, make checks payable to OSBA and send this form with payment to:

Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan Street NW, Salem, OR 97304.
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Northwest Corner Beekeepers Fall Conference 2005
Agate Beach Inn Best Western, Newport, Oregon
October 27, 28, 29

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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Pre-Registration for Individual Days</th>
<th>Full Conference Pre-Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Night hospitality room</td>
<td>complimentary</td>
<td>complimentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Conference Only @ $40 (see item 1)</td>
<td>Family registration fee @ $55</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Conference Only @ $40 (see item 1)</td>
<td>Family registration fee @ $55</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Conference @ $75 (see item 1)</td>
<td>Family registration fee @100</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Noon Lunch @ $15</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Evening Banquet @ $25</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Noon Lunch @ $15</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSBA Membership (includes Bee Line) $20</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If exhibiting, num. of tables @$25 _____________

Total plus exhibitor’s table fee $_________________

1. Attendees qualify for pre-registration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 1, 2005. Late or on site registration rates are: One day $45, full conference $85.
2. Make checks payable to OSBA.
3. Mail completed registration form and payment to: Phyllis Shoemake 1702 Toucan. St NW Salem, OR 97304-2027
4. Hotel reservations are not included in these rates. Make your reservations at the Agate Beach Inn, (800) 547-3310 and ask for the Beekeepers Fall Conference special room rate. You must make sure that they know you are attending the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Fall Conference when you make reservations to get the bargain rate.
NOTE TO PRINT NORTHWEST:

FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
-please run as a single sheet insert, yellow paper

WVBA PICNIC FLYER --please run as a single sheet insert, pink paper