

The Bee Line

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EFFECTS OF INSECTICIDES APPLIED TO APPLES ON HONEY BEES

D.F. Mayer, J.D. Lunden and M.R. Husfloen
WSU, IAREC
Prosser, WA

Thrips, Campyloomma, lygus bugs and other insects are serious pests of apples. Often the best timing for insecticide applications for these pests is just before bloom, during bloom or at tight petal fall. Before any insecticide is applied during this period it must be evaluated to determine if it reduces honey bee visitation to apple bloom, kills bees or interferes with the pollination process. We have an ongoing program to evaluate the effects of insecticides on bees. Here we report on one test conducted on apples in 1991.

This test was designed to evaluate the effects of applying Ambush 25WP or Dimethoate 25WP on honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) foraging and mortality. Dimethoate is registered and has been used by growers pre-bloom without harming bees. However, in other tests we have shown that if Dimethoate is applied when there is some open bloom it will kill some bees. Ambush is a fairly new pythroid.

Four plots were established in a 5-year-old commercial orchard of Golden Delicious apples at Harrah, WA. Plot size was 4.5 acres. One plot was sprayed with Ambush (8 oz/ acre), one plot was sprayed with Ambush (16 oz/acre), and one plot sprayed with Dimethoate (4 pounds/acre). One small part near the orchard center on the west side was not treated and served as the untreated check. The orchard contained a high population of blooming mustard on the orchard floor. Spray applications were done when the orchard was at 5% open bloom using a tractor drawn air-blast sprayer at a rate of 250 gallons of water per acre. Applications were 26 April beginning at 8 am with the low rate of Ambush, followed by the high rate of Ambush and then the Dimethoate ending at 11 am. Undertree sprinklers were turned on during the night on 26, 27, and 30 April for frost control.

The number of honey bees per tree per 30 seconds (10 replications) foraging in the plots were recorded on 26, 27, 29 and 30 April.

Continued on page 2

On 25 April, 4 strong honey bee colonies with Todd dead bee traps were established adjacent to each plot. The number of dead bees in the traps were recorded prior to 8 am before and following the chemical application. Prior to application and on 6 May colony conditions and the frames of bees were recorded for each colony.

Results:

There were no significant differences in the number of honey bees foraging the trees in any of the plots as compared to the untreated check (Table 1). However, there were few bees foraging the apple trees. It is difficult to reach any conclusion on the effects on honey bee foraging numbers.

Using Todd traps, normal mortality of a colony is 0-100 dead bees per day, a low kill is 200-400 dead bees per day, a moderate kill is 500-900 dead bees per day and a high kill is 1,000 plus dead bees per day.

Ambush (8 oz/acre). The application resulted in a low kill of adult bees on days 2, 3, and 4 following the application (Table 2). It is fairly common with pyrethroids that loss of bees does not occur the day following application but begins on the second day. The average number of frames of adult bees per colony was 13 prior to application and 12.5 at the conclusion of the test. On 6 May, there was no break in the brood cycle and all colonies had good numbers of brood.

Ambush (16 oz/acre). The application resulted in a low kill of adult bees on days 1, 3 and 4 following the application and a moderate kill on day 2 following the application (Table 2). The average number of frames of adult bees per colony was 13 prior to application and 14 at the conclusion of the test. On 6 May, there was no break in the brood cycle and all colonies had good numbers of brood.

Dimethoate. The application resulted in a moderate kill of adult bees for 4 days following the application and a low kill on day 5 (Table 2). The average number of frames of adult bees per colony was 13 prior to application and 11.5 at the conclusion of the test. On 6 May, one colony had a break in the brood cycle though new eggs were present. The other colonies did not have a break in the brood cycle and had good numbers of brood. During the study all colonies had symptoms of bee poisoning such as pulling larvae or pupae from the colony and increased incidence of chalkbrood.

Conclusion:

The test was almost a worse case scenario. The sprays were applied one day later than planned because of inclement weather. Applications were done during the morning rather than the evening because of inclement weather. Sprinklers were turned on at night for frost control resulting in wet foliage. Wet foliage normally increases the hazard of any insecticide to bees.

This test confirms other tests with Dimethoate. It should never be applied when there is open apple bloom or open weed bloom on the orchard floor. However, the results using Ambush are quite encouraging. Further work is necessary, especially with low rates, to determine if Ambush can be used for insect pest control during the early boom period without significant effects on honey bees.

Table 1. Effects of applying insecticides to 'Golden Delicious' apples on 26 April (5% open bloom) on honey bee (HB) foraging. Harrah, WA 1991.

Treatment	Rate/acre	Mean No. HB/Tree/30 sec.			
		26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr
Ambush 2EC	8 oz	0 a	0.4a	0.1a	1.0a
Ambush 2EC	16 oz	0 a	0.4a	0.3a	0.5a
Dimethoate 25WP	4 lb	0 a	0.3a	0.4a	0.2a
Untreated check	--	0 a	0.5a	0.2a	0.3a

Means within a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the P = 0.05 level, Newman-Keuls studentized range test.

Table 2. Effects of applying insecticides to 'Golden Delicious' apples on 26 April (5% open bloom) on honey bee (HB) mortality, based on Todd dead bee traps in colonies placed adjacent to treated plots. Harrah WA 1991.

Treatment	Rate/acre	Mean No. HB/colony/day						
		26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	2 May
Ambush 2EC	8 oz	69	66	151	137	195	101	56
Ambush 2EC	16 oz	49	116	330	155	169	100	53
Dimethoate 25WP	4 lb	85	561	465	562	508	279	115

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NEWS FROM IBRA

RESEARCH JOURNAL IS REJUVENATED

For nearly 30 years the *Journal of Apicultural Research* has been IBRA's journal for reporting experimental science - becoming respected as a prestigious outlet for publishing scientific studies of bees in general and honey bees in particular.

Now the *Journal of Apicultural Research* has been revamped with a more modern look and a much more readable format. But behind the new image are fundamental changes in management, that will ensure JAR's place as the flagship of apicultural research journals.

An international editorial team now works on this publication. Dr Thomas Rinderer, research leader at the US Department of Agriculture's Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory, heads a team at Baton Rouge which selects, reviews and arranges the refereeing of manuscripts, approving only those reaching the required standard of scientific merit. Three staff at IBRA - the International Bee Research Association - in Cardiff, United Kingdom, edit these papers and manage the production of a complete journal from the collection of manuscripts.

"The size of the editorial team will ensure that manuscripts receive prompt attention, regardless of the work commitments of individual editors", said Dr Rinderer. "Time limits have been set for each stage of the editorial and production process, and combined with an efficient manuscript tracking system, no undue delays will occur."

Andrew Matheson, Director of the International Bee Research Association, welcomes the co-operation between the USDA and IBRA in producing the journal: "The editorial team is committed to bringing our colleagues a journal respected for its quality and the speed of review and production".

Guidelines for authors, sample copies of the journal and information on subscriptions are available to anyone interested, from: IBRA, 18 North Road, Cardiff CF1 3DY, UK. Fax (+44) 222-665522.

OSBA HAPPENINGS

1992

July 18th Summer Picnic/Bee Day, hosted by Tillamook Beekeepers

Nov. 13-14 Joint Oregon/Washington Convention hosted by OSBA, Greenwood Inn, Beaverton.

Note: Because of the joint Oregon/Washington convention in November, one month earlier than usual, the spring meeting and summer picnic have been combined. The picnic will be held on Saturday, July 18, rather than in August and will serve as a picnic/bee day with speakers and a barbecue.

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President's Note –

The open letter which follows express a feeling shared by many who are aware of the repercussion resulting from the actions seemingly beyond our control.

Miller Wood Products is experiencing a problem that involves all of us. I hope you will take the time to write Glen with your input. Thanks!

Miller Wood Products



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LAST FALL I WAS TALKING WITH BILL RUFNER ABOUT SOME CONCERNS I HAD FOR RAW MATERIAL AVAILABILITY FOR BEE WOODENWARE. THIS PROBLEM HAS, SUBSEQUENTLY, WORSENERED AND I WOULD SIMPLY LIKE TO RELATE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS TO OREGON BEEKEEPERS VIA THE BEE LINE.

I HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE LUMBER INDUSTRY SINCE 1969 IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES, ALL IN MANAGEMENT. THROUGH IT'S HISTORY THE INDUSTRY WAS ABOUT THE CLOSEST THING TO A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF A FREE MARKET AS YOU COULD FIND. WHEN DEMAND EXCEEDED SUPPLY, PRICES WENT UP. WHEN SUPPLY EXCEEDED DEMAND, PRICES WENT DOWN. WE CALLED IT THE HOUSING CYCLE. MARKETS GOT HOT IN THE SPRING AND COOLED OFF IN FALL. SOME YEARS WERE GOOD, OTHERS BAD. SOMETIMES EXTERNAL FACTORS CAUSED TEMPORARY "SHORTAGES." HEAVY SNOW IN LATE SPRING MIGHT HOLD UP LOGGING FOR A MONTH OR TWO. NATURAL DISASTERS, WAR, LOW INTEREST RATES, ANY NUMBER OF EVENTS CAUSED TEMPORARY GOOD MARKETS. BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS MORE TIMBER AND MILL OVERTIME TO COVER THE SHORTAGE.

ALL OF THIS HAS CHANGED. THE PRESSURE OF PRESERVATIONISTS TO ELIMINATE LOGGING ON ALL FEDERAL LANDS HAS TURNED THE MARKET SITUATION AROUND. IT IS NOT MY PURPOSE HERE TO DEBATE THE ISSUES RELATED TO FOREST MANAGEMENT WE ALL READ ABOUT DAILY. LIKE BEEKEEPERS, I LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD. THROUGHOUT MY CAREER I HAVE PRIMARILY WORKED WITH PINE LUMBER PRODUCTS. DESPITE THE WORST HOUSING MARKET SINCE 1946 INDUSTRIAL PINE LUMBER PRICES HIT ALL-TIME HIGHS IN THE SUMMER OF 1991. AFTER A TWO MONTH STALL PRICES BEGAN RISING AGAIN AND HAVE ONCE AGAIN STALLED AT LEVELS WE NEVER DREAMED POSSIBLE. THE CONSENSUS IN THE INDUSTRY IS THAT WITH SPRING AROUND THE CORNER AND INTEREST RATES LOW THAT THE MARKETS POSE NO DOWNSIDE RISK AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WILL TAKE OFF AGAIN SOON. THE PINE INDUSTRY DOESN'T FEEL THERE IS ENOUGH PINE TIMBER AVAILABLE TO SUSTAIN MUCH IF ANY INCREASE IN HOUSING STARTS. OVER THE LAST YEAR, PINE INDUSTRIAL GRADES OF LUMBER HAVE LITERALLY DOUBLED. #3 COMMON IN 1X12 HAS INCREASED FROM \$275 PER THOUSAND BOARD FEET (MBF) IN SEPTEMBER TO \$620 IN FEBRUARY.

MY CONCERN NOW IS, HOW CAN WE COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVES THAT WILL ALLOW US AS MANUFACTURERS TO KEEP A LID ON PRICES, OR IN A WORST CASE SCENARIO, SIMPLY INSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF THE WOOD EQUIPMENT BEEKEEPERS NEED? DEEP BOXES PRESENT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM BECAUSE THIS SIZE COMMANDS A PRICE PREMIUM OVER NARROWER WIDTHS IN ALL SPECIES. I AM INCLINED TO TRY MAKING A TWO-PIECE BOX RATHER THAN CHANGING SPECIES. BUT I WOULD REALLY LIKE SOME INPUT FROM BEEKEEPERS AS TO WHAT ALTERNATIVES WE HAVE.

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WESTERN APICULTURE SOCIETY, 1992

The Oregon State University campus in Corvallis will be the site of the 1992 annual meeting of the W.A.S., August 10 thur 14. The program is complete with an expected western emphasis. The primary meeting venue will be the spacious LaSells-Stewart Conference Center. Educational activities include updates on Africanized honey bees. The honey bee mite problems and the use of bumble bees as greenhouse pollinator. The speakers list includes Dr, Mark Winston of Simon Fraser University, in British Columbia. Dr. Rob Page from U.C Davis in California. Also joining the group from the bee program at Davis will be Dr. Eric Mussen. Dr. Lynn Royce of Oregon State University will provide a presentation concerning her successful work on controlled queen mating in flight chambers. To give the group a taste of eastern beekeeping, Dr. Jim Tew, of Wooster, Ohio and Kim Flottom from Gleanings in Bee Culture will provide us with the latest views from the Federal Extension Service and the world of beekeeping publications.



College of Agricultural Sciences Oregon State University

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY SITE OF "1992" WESTERN APICULTURE SOCIETY Corvallis, Or.

After several years of absence the Loyal Order of BEE BEARDS will return. Social "fun"ctions will include a traditional Northwest salmon bake and a banquet to be held in the "sky boxes" of the newly renovated OSU football stadium.

The organizers invite all interested beekeepers to join us in August for an exceptional social and educational experience. Please watch the BEE LINE for further details or contact Dr. Michael Burgett, Entomology, OSU, Corvallis, Or 97331-2907.

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WARMEST REGARDS,

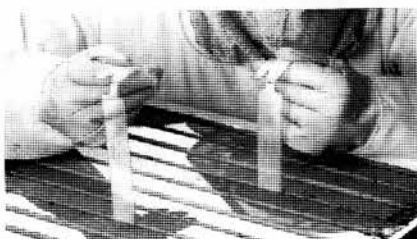
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WSBA NEWSLETTER

BEEKEEPING IN EGYPT
D.F. Mayer and J.D. Lunden
WSU, IAREC
Prosser, WA

Egyptian beekeeping has a long history, spanning more than 5,000 years. Modern beekeeping began in 1880, initially most hives were used to keep Egyptian bees. In 1920 Egyptian beekeepers began importing Italian bees and in 1930 the first Carniolan queens were introduced to Egypt. Since 1932 many Carniolan bees have been introduced. At present, most bees in Egypt are Carniolans or hybrid Carniolan/Egyptian. During November 1991, we participated in an Egyptian Beekeeping project with ACIDI/VOCA. During our trip we looked at colonies in 34 different apiaries and talked with many beekeepers. We visited with beekeepers and government officials in upper and lower Egypt.

The major problem for beekeepers in Egypt over the past 20 years has been a decline in honey production in modern colonies. For example, in 1973 average yield per colony was 35 pounds, in 1980 26 pounds, in 1986 17 pounds and in 1988 9 pounds. Very few bees are rented for pollination, so beekeepers depend on honey to pay the bills. Honey is expensive in Egypt and sells for about 3 times the world market, yet the government prevents honey importations. We identified a number of problems and proposed some solutions.

We saw many weak colonies with only 3-4 frames of bees. It appeared that many beekeepers felt the number of colonies was more important than actual honey production per colony. Therefore, they are reluctant to reduce the number of colonies by uniting weak colonies. Other beekeepers stated that combining colonies resulted in swarming. Related to this, we saw too many colonies in an apiary. However, if beekeepers would unite the weak colonies there would be fewer colonies in an apiary.

There appeared to be too many apiaries in an area. For example, in Manzala there were 33 apiaries in the 1950's. Today there are over 200 apiaries with less available clover forage. Also, in Minia governate there are 130,000 colonies. The extension apiculturist stated that in his opinion there was only adequate forage for 40,000 colonies. In one area we found 1,000 colonies within a 0.5 mile radius. We often have a similar problem in Washington; too many bees for the amount of forage.

Also, like in Washington, Egyptian beekeepers suffer losses from pesticide poisoning. In Egypt, there are no regulations to protect bees from pesticides and a very limited educational program aimed at the users of pesticides.

Beekeepers in Egypt use a comb-by-comb management scheme during the honey flow. They use only one brood box and add frames "as needed" for the queen to lay eggs. In addition, they use only one honey super and add frames "as needed". These practices limit the space for the queen to lay eggs, effectively reducing colony size and honey production. By the time frames are added crowding has already limited colony size and honey production. This comb-by-comb management is how Egyptian beekeepers used to manage bees in traditional hives using Egyptian bees. They are used to small colonies and appear reluctant to adopt practices using modern hives that lead to large colonies and more honey production per colony.

There is an active group of queen breeders in Egypt and they produce good queens for use within Egypt and export. However, many of the beekeepers we visited with did not buy queens from commercial sources but reared their own from splits.

Tracheal mites were first found in Egypt in the mid 1970's. We often observed bees with K-wing, a symptom of tracheal infestation by tracheal mites.

cont.

Government officials and beekeepers feel tracheal mites are not a problem and usually no control is used for this parasite. Although, some beekeepers use dried, ground leaves of wormwood or eucalyptus placed in the hives to reduce tracheal mite infestations. We suggested they try menthol crystals.

Varroa mite was first confirmed in Egypt in 1989 and caused the greatest damage in 1989 and 1990. The Ministry of Agriculture has reported a loss of 250,000 colonies as a result of Varroa. Regional evidence suggests that as many as 40% of Egypt's 1.2 million colonies may have been killed or severely reduced by Varroa. We visited one yard that had 30 colonies during mid-summer and only 2 very small ones were left in November as a result of Varroa. During 1991 many beekeepers used Apistan strips and this treatment has helped to alleviate the Varroa problem. Some are using formic acid. One beekeeper we visited had modified the bottom board on some 200 colonies. He had a tray covered with vaseline that could be pulled out of the bottom. He would treat with wormwood, eucalyptus or nicotine and the mites would fall to the bottom of the colony and be trapped on the sticky vaseline. Then he could pull the trays out and clean them off before treating again.

In conclusion, the propensity to keep small colonies, lack of forage for the large number of colonies in an area and pesticide kills continue to be major factors limiting honey yield per colony. Do the last two sound familiar? Varroa mite control, although an area of intense interest, does not appear to be a limiting factor in honey production.

We had a good trip. The beekeepers were very generous, interested and asked many questions. We thank ACDI/VOCA and especially the field staffs at Alexandria and Mansoura office for their great help.



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Attention, local affiliates:

Please advise *Bee Line* editor of new officers, including addresses and phone numbers.

Local Group Meetings

COOS

Beekeepers gather at the Coquille annex, next to the Extension Service Office, at 7:30 pm on the third Friday of each month except Dec.

KLAMATH

Meeting places and dates vary. Call either of the officers for particulars.

LANE

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Public Employees Credit Union Bldg, 1155 Chambers St, Eugene.

PORTLAND

Meets in the Oregon City branch of Far West Federal Bank on McLoughlin Blvd, 7:30 pm, the fourth Monday of each month.

SOUTHERN OREGON

Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Ag Extension Auditorium on Maple Park Dr. Medford.

TILLAMOOK

Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30 pm at the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, 4909 Third St.

TUALATIN

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month during the school year at Rock Creek Campus of Portland Com. College, at 7:30 pm in Bldg. #3.

WILLAMETTE

Beekeepers cluster in Rm 32B at Chemeketa Community College on the fourth Monday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

MISC. EQUIPMENT: 100 gallon stainless steel honey tank with cover and stand, \$115. 40 O.A.C. pollen traps, \$240. (206)432-3971, Maple Valley, Wa.

FOR SALE: 1974 3/4 ton 4X4 flat bed with honey arm Want to buy Kelley #329 vibrating knife or Cowan Micro uncapper. Lloyd Gordinier, 1941 Harris, Eugene Or. 97405 (503) 344-5851

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