

From: Semmence, Nigel <nigel.semmence@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: Saturday, 21 March 2020 2:44 am
To: Bob Brown
Cc: Joe Ostoja-Starzewski
Subject: RE: Honeybee hive/colony associates

Dear Bob

We have some specimens in our reference collection

Metoecus paradoxus 10 Adult specimens dated 1900 (1), 1948 (3), 1971 (1), 1985 (3) & 1993 (2). One larva from a wasp nest dated 1921.

Volucella inanis 3 larvae only all dated 1985.

If you require further info on these specimens please contact our entomologist Joe Ostoja-Starzewski on Joe.Ostoja-Starzewski@fera.co.uk

Regards

Nigel

From: Semmence, Nigel
Sent: 19 March 2020 13:40
To: Bob Brown <BrownB@landcareresearch.co.nz>
Cc: Clarkson, Rebekah <Rebekah.Clarkson@apha.gov.uk>; Davies, Peter <Peter.Davies@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Honeybee hive/colony associates

Dear Bob

Information on our inspection service are on our website [BeeBase](#) including details on our [apiary inspection](#) programme. Inspection numbers and disease found can be found on the [Disease incidence page](#) and the number of colonies inspected is best viewed on the [trends](#) page. The NBU has been going since the 1950's and an overview can be found [here](#).

Kind regards

Nigel

From: Bob Brown [<mailto:BrownB@landcareresearch.co.nz>]
Sent: 18 March 2020 21:06
To: Semmence, Nigel <nigel.semmence@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: Clarkson, Rebekah <Rebekah.Clarkson@apha.gov.uk>; Davies, Peter <Peter.Davies@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Honeybee hive/colony associates

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for getting back to me with this information . That is really useful for my project. Any idea on the rough number of hives inspected per year? How long have the inspections been going? I think beekeepers are legally obliged to inspect their hives at least twice a year here in NZ for AFB since around the late 1990's.

Best wishes,

Bob

From: Semmence, Nigel <nigel.semmence@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2020 4:32 AM
To: Bob Brown <BrownB@landcareresearch.co.nz>
Cc: Clarkson, Rebekah <Rebekah.Clarkson@apha.gov.uk>; Davies, Peter <Peter.Davies@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Honeybee hive/colony associates

Dear Dr Brown

I have asked our entomologist who receives the unusual insects sent into us by beekeepers or discovered by Bee inspectors in their inspections. For interest some of these samples include floor debris samples. He confirmed that we haven't encountered either *Volucella inanis* or *Metoecus paradoxus* in samples sent to us from beehives.

Hopefully that helps.

Kind regards

Nigel

Nigel Semmence

Contingency Planning & Science Officer

National Bee Unit

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

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Email: nigel.semmence@apha.gov.uk

National Bee Unit Website (BeeBase): www.nationalbeeunit.com

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [APHAGov](https://www.facebook.com/APHAGov)

Address: National Bee Unit, National Agri-Food Innovation campus, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

From: Bob Brown [<mailto:BrownB@landcareresearch.co.nz>]

Sent: 16 March 2020 21:02

To: Davies, Peter <Peter.Davies@apha.gov.uk>

Cc: Semmence, Nigel <nigel.semmence@apha.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Honeybee hive/colony associates

Hi Pete,

Thanks for getting back to me in these crazy days! I would like to think that things will get back to normal soon so that I can come back to the UK this year for my wasp natural enemy studies, but planning for alternative projects.

I appreciate the confidential nature of the national database. Instead of sharing the database with me, maybe you could check for a couple of the potential biocontrol agents for me? At this stage I'm really looking for a presence/absence of two species in the beehives, *Volucella inanis* & *Metoecus paradoxus*. The *V. inanis* is a hoverfly whose larvae live in wasp nests and eat the wasp grubs. They should be very obvious if they occur in honeybee hives as they are quite active and can get to nearly 20 mm long. *Metoecus* is a beetle that is a parasitoid of wasps. The larvae would be difficult to spot, but the adult beetles are unmistakable as they are bright orange and black and it is the only member of the Ripiphoridae family in the UK. I have never heard of either species being found inside bee hives, but thought if anyone would know for sure, it would be your team.

Thanks again.

Best wishes,

Bob

Dr Bob Brown

Researcher

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From: Davies, Peter <Peter.Davies@apha.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2020 12:24 AM

To: Bob Brown <BrownB@landcareresearch.co.nz>

Cc: Semmence, Nigel <nigel.semmence@apha.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Honeybee hive/colony associates

Hi Bob,

Thanks for your e mail.

I am not aware of a specific database that holds the sort of information you are asking for. We have a large confidential database that hold details of and inspection records for UK beekeepers but we do not log predation of honey bees on that system.

European Hornet, sometimes wasps and possibly Asian Hornet are our main bee predatory insects, although dragon flies and some hover flies take a few too.

I have copied in Nigel Semmence on my reply who is our science and contingency expert who may be able to add to my reply or point you to another body or individual who can.

Best regards

Pete

Peter Davies

Regional Bee Inspector, Southern Region - National Bee Unit

Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle Of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire,
Northamptonshire

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

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Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

National Bee Unit Website (BeeBase): www.nationalbeeunit.com tel: 01904 462510

National Bee Unit, National Agri-Food Innovation Campus, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

From: Bob Brown [<mailto:BrownB@landcareresearch.co.nz>]

Sent: 11 March 2020 22:55

To: Davies, Peter <Peter.Davies@apha.gov.uk>

Subject: Honeybee hive/colony associates

Dear Peter,

I'm writing to see if there is a database or record of species found associated with honeybees. Do you know if the National Bee Unit publishes a national bee hive survey or something similar? I'm interested in a list of insect species parasitizing or predated on bees to compare with what I have found in *Vespula* wasp nests.

For a little background, I live in New Zealand and work on invasive common and German wasps. After comparing the DNA of the local populations with wasps from the native range we found that our wasps originated in the southern part of England. I've been coming over to the UK to survey wasp nests the past four years to investigate any potential leads for a biological control agent that may be useful to control populations here in NZ since we don't have any native social wasps (or bees). I now have a couple of species that are really good candidates, but need to verify that they are not associated with honeybees! Any direction you can offer will be very much appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

Best wishes,

Bob

Dr Bob Brown

Researcher

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