
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 20 ISSUE 6

OCT / NOV 06

STARTING TO WIND DOWN

Well, it's back from vacation for just about everyone and now back to the real world. I mentioned in my last article Joan and I were headed off to Alaska with family and friends. I hope that all of you enjoyed your vacations as much as we did. Now let's look back for a minute before we look ahead

The Picnic. For those of you that missed it, you missed a great one. We had a nice day, no rain and a nice large auction. Details are in another part of the news letter. As I am sure most of you know, it is a very busy day for me and as much as I would have liked, I just don't get the time to get around and say hello to everyone. From the little chance I had to observe the group it looked as though everyone was having a good time and got plenty to eat. Of course this isn't just me that make this picnic a success. It takes the work of a lot of other people. Much thanks to Bea and Frank Legnaiol, Barbara and Pat Ricci, Cathy Adoniz, Curtis Crowell, Tim Schuler, Madeleine Nist, Cheri Klinker and my daughter Nancy and grandson Daniel. And if the good lord is willing we will give it a try again next year.

I suspect that by now most of you have taken your honey off the bees and are preparing them for winter. I had a good year, as I had expected, but not the best that I have seen. I understand that in different parts of the state, honey is hard to find as there was a poor honey flow. I also understand that lots of bees are showing signs of starving. If you haven't been out to look at your bees recently you might want to take a good look soon. As the old saying

goes maybe there will be a decent fall flow or, "Well, there is next year." As for the new beekeepers in our group, now is the time to touch base with your mentors and find out what the proper way is to get those bees through the cold winter's months

Talking about new beekeepers, Curtis Crowell tells me that we have 80 more beekeepers as members than we did this time last year. Welcome aboard.

Jake, Paul and I just taught the 3rd short course for this year. The weather was just great and there were 42 new beekeepers taking the course. So there is the possibility that we will increase the number of beekeepers even more. From what I hear, the Southern branch has gained the most new members and under the leadership of Tim and Patty Schuler is again doing well

Now, looking ahead. We will be having a fall meeting on Oct 14th in pretty north jersey, sponsored by our Sussex chapter. They have a nice agenda for the day. Details in another part of the news letter.

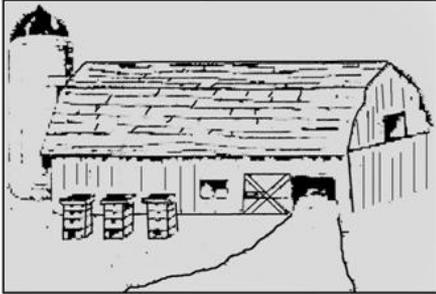
Last but not least. As the year starts to wind down, remember we have our State Honey Show in late Jan.- early Feb. There have been some rule changes and a new category added with some additional prizes to be awarded. If you are not familiar with the rules, contact Janet Katz or myself or come to the next meeting and one of us will bring you up to date. Let's make this show the best yet. It gets great press coverage and makes us all look good in the public's eye.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Bob H

S&F

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The schedule of events at the NJ
BA Annual Meeting on October
14th Schedule of events

8:30 - 9:00 - registration, coffee
& donuts

9:00 - 10:00 - NJBA Business
meeting

10:00 - 11:00 - Division of Fish,
Game, & Wildlife

11:00 - 12:00 - William Foley

12:00 - 1:00 - Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 - Tony Jadcak

2:30 - 3:15 - Jake Matthenius

Guest speakers:

Tony Jadcak Maine Dept. of
Agriculture Blueberry
pollination & beekeeping in
Maine

Jake Matthenius- The History of
Beekeeping in NJ

Division of Fish, Game, &
Wildlife- speaking on Black
Bear

William Foley- Comb Honey

Lunch

\$15 per person

Chicken, salad, veggie, potatoes,
dessert, coffee,
tea, soft drinks

RSVP by October 2 to Linda
Osborne

foxhill4@earthlink.net or 973-
875-5770

Directions to the Sussex Co.
Fair Grounds

Eastern NJ

* Take Interstate 80 West to
(Exit 34B) Route 15 North,
Follow 15 until it joins Route
206 just beyond Lafayette, New
Jersey. Proceed North on Route
206 for one mile to a light at
Plains Road. Turn right onto
Plains Rd, and The Sussex
County Fairgrounds will be on
the right one mile down the
road.

From Western NJ

* Take Route 206 North past
Newton, New Jersey to
Ross' Corner. At the intersection
of Route 15 & Route 206
make a left , staying on Route
206 toward Augusta. Turn right
at the light for Plains Road and
The Sussex County Fairgrounds
will be on the right one mile
down the road.

Alternate route from Newton.

* Turn left on Route 519
North right after the square in
Newton. Follow 519 past 3
traffic lights. Where 519 makes
a sharp left, go straight onto
Augusta Hill Road. Continue
straight across Route 206 (traffic
light) onto Plains Road. The
fairgrounds will be on the right
one mile down the road.

From Southeastern NJ

* Take the Garden State
Parkway North to Interstate
287 North / Route 440 West.
Follow 287 to Interstate
80 West. Or continue on the
parkway North to Rt 280, and
take 280 West to Rt 80 West.
Follow directions for Eastern
NJ.



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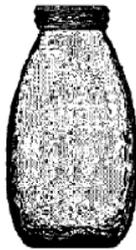
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2006 PICNIC AUCTION

We had 106 children and 2 adults this year, and auctioned off a total of \$1,278 worth of equipment and supplies. The NJBA earned \$222 from auction commissions and \$206 after the cost of food was deducted from the ticket sales.

My thanks to Pat Ricci and Tim Schuler for their help with the auction and with record-keeping.

-C.Crowell



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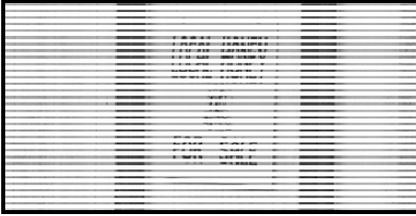
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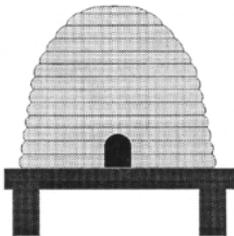
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Varroa Mites

Reproduction by varroa mites coincides with the pupal stages of honey bee metamorphosis, which occur within a capped brood cell. We focus on the relationship between varroa mites and worker bees. Female varroa mites live on adult bees when not reproducing. Adult male mites cannot live outside the capped brood cell. The following pictorial will show how the growth of mite populations depends on the availability of honey bee brood.

Metamorphosis of Honey Bees

Development of honey bees is similar to the metamorphosis in butterflies. The stages of development and the duration of each stage for a worker bee are given by the following sequence:

egg (3 days) --> larva & prepupa (8 days) --> pupa (9 days) --> adult
total development time = 19.5 - 20 days

The egg and early larval stages live in uncapped brood cells. The last two days of the larval stage, the pupal stage, and the first half-day of the adult stage occur beneath capped brood cells. The following description of honey-bee metamorphosis contains references of time in days. The reference point is the moment the egg was laid by the queen bee.

Step 1: Queen Bee lays the egg.

Only one queen lives within a colony of honey bees. She lays up to 2,500 eggs per day. The worker bees care for the queen and the young brood.

The life of a worker honey bee begins when the queen lays a fertilized egg on the base of a worker-sized brood cell.

Beekeeping Tour of Ukraine

June 25-30, 2006



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www.lynx-intl.com

Step 2: A larva hatches from egg after three days.

Nurse bees feed brood food to the larva within minutes of hatching. Glands in the head of nurse bees secrete the liquid diet. The nurse bees continue to feed the larva until the cell is capped.

Step 3: Larva grows large on steady diet of brood food.

The worker larva sheds its skin (or molts) as it grows. The first four molts occur every 24 hours after the larva hatches. The fourth larval molt occurs by the end of day 7 when the larva occupies the entire floor of its brood cell. At 8 days the larva sends out chemicals that signal attendant worker bees to cap the brood cell. The final larval molt occurs on the 11-12th day.

Adult varroa mites live on adult bees when not reproducing. The average time spent on adult bees between reproductive cycles

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varies from a few days to more than a month. About 7 days is typical. A mite begins her reproductive cycle by invading a worker cell about 0-18 hours prior to it being capped. A single mite may experience 3-8 reproductive cycles in her entire life, but the average number of cycles is 3.

Step 4: A mite invades the brood cell before it is capped.

A varroa mite invades a brood cell by running from the belly-side of a nurse bee into the cell opening. She runs down the cell wall and into the brood food beneath the bee larva. The mite becomes immobile while immersed in the brood food (she looks dead while in the jelly).

She breathes air with specialized tubes called peritremes. The peritremes are the thin, pale-colored tubes between the last two pairs of legs.

A varroa mite remains motionless until all of the brood food is eaten by the larva during her first 24-30 hours in the cell. Most mites wake up and begin feeding on the blood of the bee larva by the end of the 9th day.

Step 5: Bee larva spins a cocoon.

The bee larva will defecate soon after eating all of the brood food. Then she spins a cocoon using silk that is produced by glands within her mouthparts. The cocoon completely surrounds the larva when it is finished. The cocoon usually provides a barrier between the larva and the feces, but sometimes larvae will defecate after the cocoon is complete. Metamorphosis is completed within the protective cocoon.

Sometimes mites get trapped!

If a varroa mite does not wake up before the bee larva spins the cocoon, the cocoon will be spun over the mite.

Then the cocoon separates the mite from the larva. We call this condition of the mite 'entrapped by the cocoon'. Usually, very few varroa mites become entrapped by the cocoon; however, we have produced resistant bees that have high levels (> 25%) of entrapped mites (see Breeding Honey Bees to Suppress Mite Reproduction). An entrapped mite will die because it cannot feed.

Step 6: The bee larva becomes prepupa.

The bee larva changes into a prepupa within hours of finishing the cocoon. The prepupa lies motionless in the brood cell as it prepares to shed the last larval skin. This stage lasts for nearly two days spanning the 10-11th days of bee development.

Most varroa mites begin to suck the blood of the host bee during the late larval to early prepupal stage. The mite pierces the body of the host with her mouthparts and sucks the blood like a tick might suck the blood from a dog. A varroa mite and her family usually feed from one wound. The feeding site (or wound) is usually located in the lower 1/3 of the brood cell. Varroa mites tend to repeatedly defecate on the cell wall near the feeding site. The pile of mite feces is white.

Metamorphic Development of Varroa Mites

The development of varroa mites is similar to the gradual metamorphosis exemplified by other mites and insects like grasshoppers. The different stages of development and the duration of each stage are given in the following sequences:

Male Varroa Mites

egg (30 hr) --> protonymph (52 hr) -->

deutonymph (72 hr) --> adult.

Total development time = 6.5 days

Female Varroa Mites

egg (20-24 hr) --> protonymph (30 hr) -->

deutonymph (75-80 hr) --> adult.

Total development time = 5 - 5.5 days

All stages of a varroa mite development occur within the capped brood cell. A typical female mite will lay one male egg and 4 female eggs during her reproductive cycle in worker brood. However, only the son and the 1 or 2 oldest daughters will reach adulthood before the honey bee emerges from the brood cell.

Step 7: The body of the mite swells as the first egg develops.

The steady diet of blood from the prepupa provides the varroa mite the nutrition needed to make eggs. A mite's body swells as an egg matures within her ovary.

Step 8: The prepupa sheds the last larval skin.

The prepupa becomes a pupa at the end of the 11th day after it has shed the old larval skin. This molt is the 5th and final larval molt of the honey bee.

Step 9: The mite lays her first egg.

The first egg is laid on the wall of the brood cell before the end of the bee's prepupal stage. Otherwise, the egg is laid in the first pupal stage. The first egg is almost always a male. The female mite will lay an egg every 30 hours over the next few days (usually not more than 5 eggs are laid in a worker brood cell).

Step 10: The prepupa becomes a pupa.

The head of the prepupa enlarges by the end of the 11th day, marking the beginning of the pupal stage of bee development. The tissues of the pupa will continue changing to form the adult insect. The most noticeable changes are

an increase in pigmentation of the eyes and body as the pupa ages.

The first pupal stage of the worker bee begins on the 11-12th day. Neither the body nor the eyes of the pupa are pigmented.

The eyes of the bee pupa appear pale pink but its body remains white on the 13th day.

Step 11: The eyes of the pupa begin pigmentation.

The eyes become pigmented before other parts of the bee. There is no movement of legs, antennae or mouthparts during the early pupal stages.

The adult mite continues to lay eggs. At this point, a typical family of varroa mites consists of the mother mite, a male protonymph, a female protonymph and another egg that will become a female mite.

Step 12: Eye pigments darken.

The compound eyes and the ocelli (the three small eyes at the center of the head) appear pink on the 14th day. The pupa still does not move its appendages.

In regards to the mite family, the male protonymph and the oldest female protonymph will molt to become deutonymphs during this stage of bee development. The second oldest daughter mite hatches from the egg to become a protonymph, and the 4th egg is laid by the mother mite.

Step 13: Eyes are purple on the 15th day.

The body is still white or slightly yellow, but some brown pigment appears in the antennae and mouthparts at this stage.

The four mite progeny are: (1) egg, (2) female deutonymph, (3) male deutonymph and (4) a female protonymph. The core of the mite family is completed.

Although the mother mite can lay more eggs (and they sometimes do), none of those additional progeny will have time to mature into adult mites before the honey bee emerges from the brood cell. In fact, the egg (the 3rd daughter for this particular mother mite) has only a 13% chance of reaching adulthood.

Step 14: The bee's body darkens.

The body of the bee has a yellowish tan appearance on the 16-17th day of development. The pigmentation of the antennae, mouthparts and legs increases. Some slight movements of the legs can be seen at this time. By the end of the 17th day, the pupa has a dark tan or gray appearance.

Step 15: Body becomes more pigmented.

As the pupa's body darkens, movements of the legs and mouthparts are more frequent. The wing pads become gray-colored.

Step 16: The oldest mite progeny reach adulthood.

The son and first daughter will reach adulthood during the 17-18th days of the bee's metamorphosis. After molting from the deutonymph stage, the young adult mites are white. Their bodies begin to darken over the next few hours to days. Female mites will become as brown as their mothers, but adult males remain a light tan color.

The adult son and adult daughter mites will mate several times. The female mite stores 40-70 spermatozoa within her spermatheca, and she will use them later in life to fertilize eggs that she lays in a brood cell. Mating occurs near or on the pile of mite feces. Some scientists believe that the mite feces contains chemicals that attracts both sexes to the spot for feeding and mating. These mites do not have eyes

and may depend on touch or smell to find each other.

Varroa mites go through two molts as they mature. The first molt occurs when a protonymph becomes a deutonymph. The skin from this first molt is so small that it cannot be seen. The second molt occurs during the transition from deutonymph to adult. The skin from this molt can be readily seen in the brood cell.

Step 17: Bee pupa prepares for final molt.

The body color of the pupa becomes a dark gray or black on the 18-19th day. Movements of the legs are more prevalent during this period. The wings expand, and hair grows on the body.

Step 18: Pupa molts and becomes an adult bee.

The pupa-to-adult molt of the honey bee occurs by the end of the 19th day. Several hours after the wings expand, the adult bee sheds the pupal skin. Movements of the legs can be vigorous at this time, which can injure any soft-bodied mites that exist in the brood cell (the adult male or immature female mites).

Step 19: The adult bee chews away cell cap.

The pupa-to-adult molt occurs about 12-20 hours before the adult bee emerges from the cell. The young bee expands her wings and finishes hardening her exoskeleton during this period of time. Her body movements are frequent and strong; therefore, immature mites are not likely to survive. Even adult male mites are vulnerable.

Step 20: Adult bee exits the cell.

The young adult bee leaves her brood cell about 20 days after the egg is laid. The adult female mites ride the bee as she exits.

In most cases, the mother mite and only 1-2 mature daughters will leave the brood cell. An average of 1.4 - 1.5 daughters per mother mites is typical for a population of mites.

The male mite usually remains in the brood cell. He will be killed and removed by nest cleaning bees that prepare newly vacated brood cells to receive another egg from the queen bee.

Often worker bees that have been parasitized by varroa mites are underweight and have deformed wings. Injuries from the feeding mites damage and weaken bees to the point that the wings do not expand properly. Varroa mites can also infect bees with dangerous viruses and bacteria.

Although varroa mites infect worker brood cells of our western honey bee, they prefer drone brood cells when available (early spring). Development of drones is similar to that of worker bees, but the overall development time for drones is 23-24 days. The capped period for drones is 14-15 days. The extra 2.5 days (relative to the capped period for worker bees) provides time for an additional 1-2 daughters to mature. A single mother mite can produce 3-5 mature daughters within a capped drone brood cell, but the average number of daughters per mite in drone cells is about 2-2.5. We do not allow drones to be raised in our experimental colonies when we are breeding for resistance to varroa. Our research has focused on breeding for resistance to varroa by observing mite reproduction in worker brood cells only.

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NJBA MEETING DATES

Oct 14th Hosted by Sussex

Jan-Feb NJ State Honey Show,
dates to be announced

CENTRAL JERSEY

October 7: Fall Conservation
Day.

November 10, 2006: 7:00 PM,
General membership meeting

ESSEX COUNTY

Second Tuesday, Extensive
schedule of events at Essex
County Environmental Center.
Contact Landi Simone for
dates and topics.

Nov 14: 6:00 - 10 PM, Honey
Cookoff & judging

JERSEY CAPE

Third Thursday, 7:00 PM at
Cape May County Extension
Office

MORRIS COUNTY

Oct 27, 7 PM Mini Mac diner,
158 Rt 206, Chester. Hunt
Jones on Africanized bees.

Dec 3, Annual holiday party

NORTH EAST

Third Friday, 678 S. Maple
Ave, Glen Rock

NORTH WEST

Dec 9, Annual winter party at
Echo Hill Park

SUSSEX

Sponsoring state fall meeting.
See details in newsletter.

SOUTH

OTHER EVENTS

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Ad size	Location of ad	Price
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1/2 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$100
1/4 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$75
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NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Membership Form

Note: Memberships start in January and expire in December

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North East - Karl Schoenknecht - 683 Summit Ave, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

North West Jersey - Karin Weinberg - 337 Tunnel Rd, Asbury, NJ 08802-1120

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RINGOES, NJ
PERMIT # 65