



Action FA0803

Proceedings of
COLOSS Workshop WG2+4
“Diagnostic Surveys”

August 25-26, 2011
Hotel Palace Belgrade/Serbia



UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE
Belgrade - SERBIA

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A. Agenda

BELGRADE - COLOSS WORKSHOP "DIAGNOSTIC SURVEY" AGENDA				
day	time	activity	place	
24.08. (Wednesday)		Arrival and transfer	Hotel Palace	
	16,00	Registration		
	19,30	BOAT CRUISING and dinner on the river banch restaurant		
25.08. (Thursday)	08,00	Registration	Hotel Palace	
	09,00	<p>Session 1: Survey Methods</p> <p><u>Questionnaire Surveys</u> Abstract Presentations (5 min.) -Maja Drazic "Regional Variation of Honeybee Colony losses in Croatia" -Ivana Tlak Gajger "Survey About American Foulbrood Diagnostic and Eradication Procedures in Croatia"</p> <p><u>Diagnostic Surveys (Presence/Prevalence)</u> Abstract Presentations (5 min.) -Tamas Csaki "Introduction of Some Methods and Use of Lab and Field Work with Honey bees in Hoarding Cages" -El-Niweiri "African Foulbrood Diseases Distribution and Diagnosis" -Plamen Petrov "Morphometric Characteristics of Honeybee Populations <i>Apis mellifera</i> in Bulgaria and Their Infestation with <i>Varroa destructor</i> and <i>Nosema</i> spp." -Elif Güzerin "The Prevalence of AFB in Turkey 2010-2011 period" -Fani Hatjina "Diagnostic Survey for the Impact on Predation and Honey Bee Colony Losses, caused by the invasive species <i>Vespa velutina</i> in France"</p> <p>Plenary Talk "Sampling Methods for Diagnostic Surveys" Dr. Asli Özkırım</p>		
	11,30	Cofee break (Cofee, biscuits...)		
	12,00	Session 2: The Importance of Diagnostic Surveys for Monitoring Global Colony Losses and Pathogen Interactions(Annual mapping of COLOSS like WHO, FAO)		
	14,00	Lunch, served on a buffet basis		
	15,00	<p>Session 3: GEI and WG 4 experiments</p> <p>Plenary Talk "Effects of genotype and environment for disease relevance – preliminary results from the genotype-environment experiment of WG4 Dr. Marina Meixner &Dr. Cecilia Costa" Abstract Presentations (5 min.) -Malgorzata Bienkowska "Varroa mite population in Genotype-Environment Interaction Experimental Colonies in Poland"</p>		
	17,30	Departure to Sremski Karlovci (BeekeepingMuseum...)		
	19,30	Tour of town		Sremski Karlovci town
	20,15	Dinner		
	22,30	Return to the hotel		

26.08. (Friday)	8,00 9,00	Registration Session 4: The Role of Environmental Differences between Countries for Using Standardized Surveys Discussion	Hotel Palace
	11,00	Cofee break (Cofee, biscuits...)	
	11,30	Session 5: Data Analysis of Diagnostic Surveys Discussion	
	14,00	Lunch	
	15,00	Session 6: Discussion- Conclusion	
	17,30	Cofee break (Cofee, biscuits...)	

Registration on site is required:

Registration fee: 40 €

Workshop information

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

**Hotel Palace
Belgrad/SERBIA**

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATIONS

Dr. Aslı ÖZKIRIM

HacettepeUniversity
Dept. of Biology
Beytepe Campus
Phone: +90 312 297 80 43
Fax: +90 312 299 20 28
ozkirim@hacettepe.edu.tr

Dr. Fani HATJINA

Hellenic Institute of Apiculture
(N.AG.RE.F.)
63 200 N. Moudania, Greece
Tel: +30 23730 91297
Fax: +30 23730 91676
E-mail: fhatjina@instmelissocomias.gr
or: fh_14664@yahoo.gr

CONTACTS FOR LOCAL INFORMATIONS

Dr. Mića Mladenović

University of Belgrade - Faculty of Agriculture,
Institute of Pomology & Viticulture,
Department of Beekeeping,
Nemanjina 6, 11080 Belgrade-Zemun, Serbia
Tel: +381 631064207; +381 641361721
Fax: +381 112193659
E-mail: mica.mladenovic@gmail.com

Dr. Ljubiša Stanisavljević

University of Belgrade - Faculty of Biology,
Institute of Zoology, Center for biology of
bees,
Studentski trg 16, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel: +381 642225433
Fax: +381 112638500
E-mail: ljstanis@rcub.bg.ac.rs

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B. List of Abstracts

**Varroa mite population in genotype-environment interaction (GEI)
experimental colonies in Poland**

Małgorzata Bienkowska^{1*}, Jerzy Wilde², Beata Panasiuk¹, Dariusz Gerula¹

¹Research Institute of Horticulture, Apiculture Division, Kazimierska 2, 24-100 Pulawy, Poland

²Apiculture Division, Faculty of Animal Bioengineering, Warmia and Mazury University, Sloneczna 48, 10-957 Olsztyn, Poland

Malgorzata.bienkowska@man.pulawy.pl Telephone: +48 818864208

Three experimental apiaries for evaluation of GEI experimental bee colonies were established in 2009 in Poland. They were set in different areas of Poland (south-east, central and north). Bee colonies with queens belonging to 8 populations were placed in the apiaries: CarG GR1 from Pulawy, Poland, CarP Kortowka from Olsztyn, Poland, MacB Macedonica from Bulgaria, Mel P Augustowska from Poland, CarC from Croatia, Car V Veitshöchheim from Germany, CarK from Kirchhain, Germany, CarL from Lunz, Austria.

Varroa mite infestation level was monitored in the summer of 2010 in colonies with four different methods:

- washing bees - number of mites per 10 g of bees (spring and late summer)
- brood checking - number of mites in cells with sealed brood (5x5 cm piece of comb) (late summer)
- brood traps - number of mites in cells with sealed brood of a comb that left in a colony after brood withdrawn (July)
- natural mite fall checked in the spring time.

In bee samples from 0 to 15.8 mites per 10 g of bees were found. It is very surprising that in most of experimental colonies in both brood samples, small pieces of combs and in brood traps, no mites were found. In only few colonies single mites were present. Also some mites were fallen on hive bottom board. No correlation was stated between all these methods and mites presence in experimental colonies.

African foul brood disease? Distribution and diagnosis

El-Niweiri, M.A.A.

Apiculture Research Unit, Environment & Natural Resources Research Institute (ENRRI), National Centre for Research-Khartoum, Sudan. P.O. Box 6096 - Tel: 0049111374236-Email: mogbel7@hotmail.com

Honeybees in tropics suffer more injury and mortality from pests than from diseases caused by invisible organism. However the repeated importation of honeybees in Africa may spread novel diseases eradicating non-adapted regional wild populations. Moreover little is known if any about indigenous honeybee brood diseases in Africa. In this review study we surveyed the foul-brood diseases in Africa. Most of African honeybee diseases were found to be exotic. The distribution of these disease is common in north and West Africa, but very rare in East Africa. The only brood disease found to be endogenous in Africa is a disease caused by the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. The infection of this disease reduced the strength of the infected colonies by about 61% and increased their superseding by two and 3 folds as compared to healthy colonies. Due to the first report of this disease in Africa particular in Sudan in addition to the presence of semi-serious between it and the American foul brood and European foul brood in terms of symptoms and damage to colonies, it could be considered as a third foul brood disease, that could possibly be called Africa foul brood disease. The paper also addresses the history of the emergence of this disease, and its diagnosis.

Survey about American Foulbrood diagnostic and eradication procedures in Croatia

Ivana Tlak Gajger*, Denis Cvitković, Zlatko Tomljanović

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, Heinzelova 55, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia; 00385 1 2390 136, ivana.tlak@vef.hr Croatian Chamber of Agriculture

Apiculture, as well as diagnostic laboratories for honeybee diseases, has long tradition in Croatia. American Foulbrood (AFB) is a serious honeybee disease present on this region and spread worldwide, and it causes significant losses to apiculture and economy in general. In this survey losses of honeybee colonies caused by AFB, procedures after determination of *Paenibacillus larvae* at bee yards and opinions about early detection of disease we handed out a questionnaire at the annual beekeeping convention 2011.

In total, 216 beekeepers responded to the questionnaire and only 0.46% of them think that honeybee losses at their bee yards were caused by AFB. Also, answers about procedures after determination of *P. larvae* in samples of honeybee brood from their honeybee colonies were very divergently. 64.35% of beekeepers automatically will burn their infected colonies; 8.33% will control the disease by shaking methods; 44.91% will contact official doctor of veterinary medicine. It is interesting that 1.39% of examined beekeepers said that they don't know how to recognize signs of AFB in honeybee colonies. Also, 2.31% of beekeepers still use the antibiotics in AFB treatment, regardless that procedure is prohibited in EU and Croatia. The justification in this is possible development of resistance to used chemotherapeutic agents, masking of disease, relapses, as well as harmful antibiotics residua or their secondary metabolites in apian products. In the same time, a considerable number of beekeepers (84.97%) mean that is necessarily to conduct a routine diagnostic of AFB.

Based on results of questionnaire we can conclude that with better communication between beekeepers and doctors of veterinary medicine, correct and fast diagnostic procedures and good organized improvement and eradication of disease we can reduce AFB prevalence to minimum level.

Regional variation of honeybee colony losses in Croatia

Dražić Maja^{1*}, Bubalo Dragan ², Filipi Janja³, Svečnjak L²

¹ Croatian Agricultural Agency, Ilica 101, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

² Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb, Svetošimunska 25, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

³ Polytechnics Marko Marulic, Petra Krešimira IV. 30, 22300 Knin, Croatia

* Author for correspondence: mdrazic@hpa.hr, Croatian Agricultural Agency, Ilica 101, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia, phone +38513903125

Colony losses are reported regularly in recent years in Croatia. During winter 2010/2011 surveys on colony losses were collected from 1904 beekeepers from the whole territory of Croatia. Surveyed beekeepers wintered 178523 and lost 18887 colonies. Of those surveyed, 780 beekeepers did not report losses, while 59 beekeepers had losses exceeding 50%. Significant differences in colony losses were observed among regions, with the highest average losses in mountain (14,44%), and lowest in Mediterranean region (5,76%). Average colony losses in continental Croatia were 12,25%. When the losses were compared between different areas regarding agriculture intensity, the losses were 6,47; 8,94 and 13,16% in non-intensive, semi-intensive and intensive agriculture region, respectively. The differences in colony losses between agricultural regions are statistically significant ($p < 0,05$).

Effects of genotype and environment for disease relevance – preliminary results from the genotype-environment experiment of WG4

Marina Meixner^{1*}, Sreten Andonov², Stefan Berg³; Malgorzata Bienkowska⁴, Maria Bouga⁵, Ralph B uchler¹, Leonidas Charistos⁶ Yves Le Conte⁷, Cecilia Costa⁸, Winfried Dyrba⁹, Roy Francis¹⁰, Fani Hatjina⁶, Evgeniya Ivanova¹¹, Nikola Kezic¹², Hrisula Kiprijanovska², Seppo Korpela¹³, Per Kryger¹⁰, Beata Panasiuk⁴, Hermann Pechhacker¹⁴, Plamen Petrov¹⁵, Aleksandar Uzunov², Jerzy Wilde¹⁶

- 1) LLH, Bee Institute, Erlenstrasse 9, 35274 Kirchhain, Germany
 - 2) Faculty for Agricultural Science and Food, bul. Aleksandar Makedonski b.b., 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
 - 3) Bayerische Landesanstalt f ur Weinbau und Gartenbau, Bee Division, An der Steige 15, 97209 Veitsh ochheim, Germany
 - 4) Institute of Horticulture, Apiculture Division, 24-100 Pulawy, Poland
 - 5) Lab of Agricultural Zoology & Entomology, Agricultural University of Athens, 75 Iera Odos Str. 11855 Athens, Greece
 - 6) Hellenic Institute of Apiculture (N.AG.RE.F.), N. Moudania, Greece
 - 7) INRA, UMR 406 Abeilles et Environnement, Laboratoire Biologie et Protection de l'abeille, Site Agroparc, Domaine Saint-Paul, 84914 Avignon Cedex 9, France
 - 8) CRA-API, Bee and Silkworm Research Unit, Via di Saliceto 80, 40128 Bologna, Italy
 - 9) Bee breeding centre Bantin, Dorfstrasse 50, 19246 Bantin, Germany
 - 10) University of Aarhus, DJF, Research Centre Flakkebjerg, 4200 Slagelse, Denmark
 - 11) Department of Developmental Biology, University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria
 - 12) Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, Svetosimunska 25, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
 - 13) MTT, Agrifood research Finland, 31600 Jokioinen, Finland
 - 14) Austrian Carnica Association, Sulzbach 1, 3293 Lunz am See, Austria
 - 15) Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria
 - 16) Apiculture Division, Warmia and Mazury University, Sloneczna 48, 10-710 Olsztyn, POLAND
- * Author for correspondence: marina.meixner@llh.hessen.de, Erlenstrasse 9, 35274 Kirchhain, Germany, phone: ++49 6422 940613

The international experiment to estimate the importance of genotype-environment interactions on honeybee vitality and colony losses was started in July 2009 with 621 colonies, involving 18 strains of European honeybees in 16 test locations spread all over Europe.

During the experiment, the health status of these colonies is continuously monitored, in addition to survival and colony performance. Each colony is regularly checked for any disease symptoms, and samples are taken and

analyzed for the Varroa infestation level, the presence of Nosema spores, determination of Nosema species, and the infection with viruses.

Preliminary analyses of the data available so far show strong location effects but no genotype effect for the Varroa infestation level. However, in the case of Nosema, highly significant effects were observed for both, test environment and genotype, and also for interactions between them. The virus analyses are still in progress.

The data will provide insights into the occurrence of diseases in relation to environmental conditions and genotype-environment interactions

Sampling Methods for Diagnostic Surveys

*Aslı Özkırım^{1,2}, Erkay Fouat Özgör¹

¹Hacettepe University Department of Biology Bee Health Laboratory 06800
Ankara/TURKEYE-mail: ozkirim@hacettepe.edu.tr; Tel: 00 90 312 297 80 43;
Fax: 00 90 312 299 20 28

²Hacettepe University Bee and Bee Product Research and Application
Center,06800-Beytepe-Ankara/TURKEY

The epidemiology of honey bee diseases should be revealed on the base of countries in order to be understood the pathogens' direction and strategy in the world. That's why diagnostic survey methods are crucial for epidemiologic studies. Diagnostic surveys must be done according to certain rules to obtain accurate results. The sampling method chosen is the main factor for diagnostic surveys and this choice directly affects the results of surveys. Especially in big countries and regions have different climates and geographic forms, survey requires a true choice of the sampling methods. Moreover, epidemiologic surveys can be significant by only statistical analysis. Therefore the convenient sampling method for the study is required to give a reliable statistical analysis results. There are many sampling methods for diagnostic surveys. Basic sampling methods can be classified as follows: Simple random, Stratified, Systematic, Cluster and Two Stage method respectively. Although some of these sampling methods seems to be easy and useful for every kind of epidemiologic study, they are not available for using them in different situations. In case the climate affected the pathogens' prevalence in the big country where it can be observed different climates in different regions, the sampling method for one area is not able to represent the entire area. But some sampling methods were created for big and inaccessible regions. For these reasons, sampling methods should be chosen according to the aim of the study and then statistical analysis determined with selected sampling method. This situation provides reliability and quality to the results of diagnostic survey.

The Outbreak of American Foulbrood in Turkey 2010-2011

*Aslı Özkırım^{1,2}, Elif Güzerin¹, Erkay Fouat Özgör¹, Aygün Yalçınkaya¹

¹Hacettepe University Department of Biology Bee Health Laboratory 06800
Ankara/TURKEYE-mail: ozkirim@hacettepe.edu.tr; Tel: 00 90 312 297 80 43;
Fax: 00 90 312 299 20 28

²Hacettepe University Bee and Bee Product Research and Application
Center,06800-Beytepe-Ankara/TURKEY

American foulbrood (AFB) is a serious disease causes several colony losses in all over the world. AFB has been observed in the range of 9-13% in all regions of Turkey for many years. Diagnostic survey methods have been used for the detection of the disease in every year. In 2010-2011 period, the causal agent of AFB, *Paenibacillus larvae* prevalence is determined in a high rate, 17% . For sampling, systematic sampling method were used. All samples were analysed for AFB in the laboratory. The infection level and the epidemiology of the disease were revealed by statistical analysis. The results show that the prevalence is getting high in two cases: leaving antibiotic use illegally (the first reaction of bacterial growth) and climate change(warm weather conditions induce vegetative growth of *P. larvae*).

Diagnostic survey for the impact on predation and honeybee colony losses, caused by the invasive species *Vespa velutina* in France

Alexandros* Papachristoforou, Mariangela Arca, Gerard Arnold

*e-mail address: papachri@legs.cnrs-gif.fr

mailing address: Eleftheriou Venizelou 66, 56334, Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel. 0030 2310 998261

The studies of colony losses in Europe are mainly focused on pathogens (i.e. *Varroa destructor*, *Nosema ceranae* and *Nosema apis* etc) or on external causative agents such as intoxications, nutritional malfunction, environmental factors etc. However, little attention is paid to the impact of predation, mainly by invasive species like the Asian hornet *Vespa velutina*.

Vespa velutina was found to have been introduced in southwest France during 2004. Since then it is expanding rapidly, covering one third of the French territory and causing severe losses to honeybee colonies. During 2010 it was also found in North Spain and is expected to colonize other European countries. Its eradication seems potentially impossible. Since European honeybees never had the chance to interact and coevolved with this predator, their defense is considered as rather insufficient. Using video monitoring and a data acquisition system, designed not to disturb the natural behaviour of honeybees (prey) and hornets (predator) we investigated whether honeybees succeed defending their colonies against hornets and how prey and predator interact. The studied parameters were the flight activity of honeybees and hornets as well as the predator-prey interactions during the whole predation season. Furthermore, using a combination of traps applied in the apiaries or adjusted at beehive bodies, we evaluated the predation pressure in terms of colony losses during the whole predation periods. Finally, using questionnaires we tried to evaluate the impact of hornets' predation on colony losses.

The results indicated that honeybees' defence in France is still ineffective, confirming previous results obtained during simulative artificial attacks with entrapped hornets. Additionally, colony losses are severe in some areas and years, reaching a maximum percentage of 70%. The beekeepers at the infected areas ranked the predation by *Vespa velutina* as the main causative agent of colony losses.

Morphometric characteristics of Honeybee populations *Apis mellifera* (L) in Bulgaria and their infestation with *Varroa destructor* and *Nosema* Spp.

*Plamen Petrov¹, Kalinka Gurgulova², Rumen Valchovski³, Nikolay Petkov⁴

¹Agricultural University – Plovdiv, 12, Mendeleev Str. Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria, info@nrap-bg.org

²National Diagnostic & Research Veterinary Medical Institute, Sofia, Bulgaria

³Imunolab, Sofia, Bulgaria

⁴National Bee Breeding Association

It has made morphometric performance for six exterior signs of 409 samples of bee populations from different regions of Bulgaria. Bees were tested for infestation with *Varroa destructor* and *Nosema* spp. Both *Nosema* spp. - *N. apis* and *N. ceranae* were differentiated. The study sought the correlation between racial purity and infestations of the investigated colonies. The results showed that morphometric studied bee population as a whole belonged to the local for Bulgaria honeybee.

It was found that 10.62% from samples collected in the first stage were infected with *Varroa* and in 62.80% of samples were present *Nosema* spp. Only one sample (0.77%) was positive for *N. apis*, while *N. ceranae* was detected in 99.23%. In the second stage of investigation 34.16% of samples were infested with *Varroa* and *Nosema* spp. were established in 7.92%, as the species was presented exclusively by *N. ceranae*.

Introduction of some methods and use of lab and field work with honey bees in hoarding cages

*Csáki Tamás¹, Szalainé Mátray Enikő², Békési László²

¹Szent István University, Institute for Wildlife Conservation, 2101 Gödöllő, Péter K. u. 1. csaki.tamas@gmail.com

²Institute for Small Animal Research & Co-ordination Centre For Gene Conservation, Institute for Bee-breeding, , 2101 Gödöllő, Isaszegi u. 100.

There has been made several conclusions at the COLOSS Work Shop (Bologna) for Standardized methods for honey bee rearing in hoarding cages.

In the studies with honey bees under laboratory and some field conditions the use of hoarding cages is always a question whether the type of cages are affecting the results.

In the cases where the cages are reused after studies on toxicity the cages could contain residues from the previous cycles. After studies on pathogens the material of the cages are made off affects the type and sufficiency of disinfection or sterilization.

Even during inserting the bees in the cages the need for using CO₂ could be a factor affecting the bee's mortality. These factors and specially the practicality were taken into account when we tried to design a universal and disposable cage for standardizing honey bee studies. In our talk we intend to propose some methods and use of lab and field work with our hoarding cages.

C. List of participants

Name-Surname	Country
1.Marina Meixner	Germany
2.Maria Bouga	Greece
3.Dariusz Gerula	Poland
4.Aleksandar Uzunov	FYRUM
5.Alexandros Papachristoforou	Greece
6.Tamás Csáki	Hungary
7.Jerzy Wilde	Poland
8.Asli Özkırım	Turkey
9.Per Kryger	Denmark
10.Ralph Büchler	Germany
11.Fani Hatjina	Greece
12.Evgeniya Ivanova	Bulgaria
13.Grażyna Topolska	Poland
14.Vincent Dietemann	Switzerland
15.Dragan Bubalo	Croatia
16.Aygün Yalçinkaya	Turkey
17.Sreten Andonov	FYRUM
18.Leonidas Charistos	Greece
19.Hrisula Kiprijanovska	FYRUM
20.Anna Gajda	Poland
21.Plamen Petrov	Bulgaria
22.Mogbel El-Niweiri	Sudan
23.Lidija Svečnjak	Croatia
24.Elif Güzerin	Turkey
25.Małgorzata Bieńkowska	Poland
26.Nikolaos Emmanouil	Greece
27.Beata Panasiuk	Poland
28.Kalinka Gurgulova	Bulgaria
29.Maja Dražić	Croatia
30.Forsi Mohammad	Iran
31.Geoffrey Williams	Switzerland
32.Erkay Özgör Fouat	Turkey
33. Cecilia Costa	Italy