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Division of Apiculture- Institute of Animal Science
HELLENIC AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION 'DEMETER'

2016 Workshop of 'B-RAP' (Bridging bee Research And beekeeping Practice) COLOSS Core Project

Proceedings

Thessaloniki, Greece, 20-21 April 2016

2016 Workshop of 'B-RAP'
(Bridging bee Research And beekeeping Practice)
COLOSS Core Project

Topics

The main topics of the meeting include

- What we have achieved so far
- The collection of information about beekeeping training in different countries
- Which are criteria for good quality websites
- How to cooperate with other COLOSS task forces and core projects

When & Where

The meeting will be held for two days, 20th and 21st of April (see tentative agenda below), In GRAND HOTEL PALACE, in Thessaloniki, Greece (<http://www.grandhotelpalace.gr/>)

Registration- fees

There will be a 10 € registration fee only (payable on site) which will cover all coffee breaks, lunches and 1 social dinner but not dinner on 21st April.

Max number of participants =25

At the moment **no** reimbursement for travelling or accommodation is likely.

Registration deadline: 20th of March 2016.

For registration please use the link provided in the web site.

Excursion

An optional excursion will be organized (on afternoon of 21st April) for visiting prehistoric Caves at Petralona if at least 15 people will register for this directly to fani.hatjina@yahoo.com.

However, those wishing to take part in the excursion will have to pay an additional 30 € fee. A reminder note will be sent to those registered for the workshop

Abstract

The submission of an abstract is recommended but not required, unless you wish to have it published in the proceedings

Instructions to get to Thessaloniki and the hotel

- By air

Thessaloniki Macedonia Airport (SKG) is an international airport with direct flights from several European capitals or through Athens International Airport. It is situated about 15 Km from our venue location.

There is a Bus service from Macedonia Airport of the city Thessaloniki:
In details, from Macedonia Airport you take Bus No 78 route towards KTEL Macedonia Terminal and get off at the stop "ORIZOMILOI". It is at the opposite side of the road of GRAND HOTEL PALACE. (305 - 307 Monastiriou str. Thessaloniki, Tel. 2310 549000 Fax. 2310 549149)

<http://www.grandhotelpalace.gr>)

In the following link you can find the time table and the route for the bus service from INTERCITY bus Terminal to AIRPORT and back (Bus NO 78)

<http://oasth.gr/#en/routeinfo/list/61/12/73/>

For night hours there is Bus No 78N ,

<http://oasth.gr/#en/routeinfo/list/146/74/73/>

Additional information:

(Bus No 08 takes you from the same bus stop just outside of the Hotel to the city centre and Bus No 35 takes you from the city centre to the castle area).

- By train from neighbouring countries.

There is also the possibility of travelling by train or bus.

Information for train services can be found in the following links.

<https://forum.rail.cc/istanbul-athens-train-t2369.html>

<http://www.thetrainline-europe.com/train/thessaloniki-to-skopje~7300008~6500001>

- By bus from neighbouring countries.

There are bus connections between Thessaloniki and Istanbul, Sofia, Bucharest and Tirana (please contact fani.hatjina@yahoo.com) for more details

Accommodation

Special prizes have been achieved for the hotels in the list if you book through

Halkidiki Tours: For Reservation and payment

Tel: 0030 23730 21062

email: halkidikitours@live.com

Touristic information

For more information about Thessaloniki, please visit:

<http://www.thessaloniki.travel/index.php/en/> or

<http://www.greeka.com/macedonia/thessaloniki/>

Tentative Schedule

19th APRIL, 2016

Time	ARRIVAL1st Group B-RAP
20.00	Informal gathering at hotel (GRAND HOTEL PALACE)

20th APRIL, 2016

Time	Session 1 – B-RAP
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 11:00	Welcome and workshop organization Introduction and welcome to new members Administrative issues
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
Session 2 – B-RAP	
11:30 - 13:30	What have we achieved so far? Results from workshop in Lukovica and Malmö
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
Session 3– B-RAP	
14:30 - 16:00	Survey about dissemination of information
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 - 18:00	Work on collection of information about the structure of beekeeping training in different countries
20:00-	Walk at the area of the Castle -Social dinner

21st APRIL, 2016

Time	Session 4 – B-RAP
08:30 - 10:30	B-RAP meeting Work on criteria for good quality websites and other information sources Work on a list of good examples (Light houses)
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
Session 5– B-RAP	
11:00 - 13:00	Work on a tool box for other COLOSS task forces and core projects Discussion on how to cooperate with other COLOSS task forces and core projects
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch

Session 6– B-RAP	
14:00 - 16:00	Conclusions Planning of the future work Planning of the next meeting
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 -	Excursion to Petralona Caves (optional)
20:00-	Dinner

LOCAL ORGANIZER CONTACTS
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SUMMARY

The workshop was very productive, where we in plenum discussed and decided what we wanted to achieve during the workshop, then split into two groups to produce what we decided to work on and then presented and discussed the outcome in plenum. Lot of exciting discussions, questions, buzzwords and new ideas turned up during the workshop.

We produced the following:

1. **Questionnaire to analyze the structure of beekeeping training/education in all COLOSS countries.** Aim: Make an overview article. We produced a preliminary list of *contact persons for each country* (done).
2. **Questionnaire targeting members of COLOSS and other relevant persons.** The aim is to “ask” how scientist, advisers put priority on dissemination: How often, how, and what needs for improving.
3. **A guideline on how to evaluate the quality of websites with information on beekeeping.** A very long and interesting discussion on this issue resulted in a slight change of the task, so we decided to **produce a recommendation list for minimum demands for websites.**
4. We had an initial discussion about producing a **questionnaire for a survey on how we can improve dissemination of information to the beekeepers.** We will use the monitoring group to distribute this questionnaire.
5. We got very good input/response at the B-RAP “workshop/meeting” with about 50 beekeepers at the Beecome conference in Malmö, Sweden. We agree to make more workshops with beekeepers, presenting our work and ideas and to get suggestions and ideas from the beekeepers.

Among others we also discussed that we would like to:

- A. Make a popular article about COLOSS for local beekeepers magazines.
- B. We intend to write chapters on dissemination in the COLOSSBEEBOOK, e.g. presenting good examples of beekeepers (lighthouses).
- C. Work on an evaluation form that can be handed out to participants of talks, meetings and courses to get feedback on that.
- D. We would like to invite a main speaker for the meeting in Romania on the subject: The good presentation.
- E. Radio COLOSS. Idea to make webinars when we have COLOSS workshops. We could make online discussion.
- F. We need to involve sociologist and extension experts in our group.

SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS

Usage of subspecies in Europe

Per Kryger

I will briefly discuss some preliminary observations based on the SmartBees questionnaire, concerning beekeepers choice in honey bee subspecies. The matter is complex, and beekeepers are not universally concerned about nomenclature. The conservation of the autochthonous bees does depend on unified language and the recognition of the value of biodiversity. There is dire need for educational work to be done in this area in many parts of Europe.

A Questionnaire Survey of Beekeepers' Knowledge About Laboratory Analysis and Expectations From Bee Health Laboratories

Aslı Özkırım

Aim of the survey is to determine the ideas of beekeepers about Bee health laboratories and/or bee scientists. It includes 5 main questions which are asking the expectations of beekeepers from the Bee health lab., collaboration of them with bee scientist, if they can contact the laboratory or not/ and which ways they are using, which kinds of topics are popular for them to be searched, which kind of training method they prefer etc. The questionnaire has been applied to 550 beekeepers so far and 400 of them turn back. 150 beekeepers prefer to read and keep it without answering. The results show that there are different rates for each question and also interesting and unexpected requests from the beekeepers about bee health investigations. There are 16 different comments and ideas for the expectations part in the questionnaire. All questionnaires are applied during beekeepers seminars in which we try to give information to beekeepers by different and interesting methods. All of the results and experiences can be presented and discussed in detail during the workshop.

Regional networking for improvement of local honey bee populations in Europe

Aleksandar Uzunov,
Ralph Büchler

Systematic breeding for improvement of the local honey bee populations require close regional cooperation between different stakeholders from the beekeeping practice, NGO sector, state administration, extension and science. In the framework of the European funded project SMARTBEES (www.smartbees.eu) and in particular in the Work Package 6 – Field testing and selection of honey bee populations, several actions and steps were undertaken to stimulate close cooperation among all relevant abovementioned parties. Thus, in many European countries we initiated establishment of breeding structures where main responsibilities are carried out by associations and NGOs, universities and research institutes as well as by informal groups. However, in several cases the representatives from the state administration and policy making bodies are also engaged in this process. Moreover, the regional and international communication has been stimulated by applying different extension approaches, such as organization of regional workshops, coordinating meetings, use of contemporary media and tools. The same approach is applied on national level in the involved countries, particularly between the breeders and the extensionists.

As a consequence of such a wide open approach our current European breeding structure involve 130 breeders (test stations) with approximately 1400 test colonies from 10 subspecies of honey bees extended in 20 countries. Our ultimate goal is development of European breeding network as an umbrella organization with clearly defined strategy and actions for strengthening breeding efforts for improvement of local bee populations in Europe.

The details concerning the used methods and approaches as well as the experience gained from the SMARTBEES actions will be discussed on the forthcoming B-RAP WS in Greece.

Keywords: beekeeping, breeding, network, extension, SMARTBEES

WHY RESEARCHERS DO NOT LISTEN AND BEEKEEPERS CAN NOT READ MAPS? WHY WE ARE SO DIFFERENT AND WHAT TO DO TO TAKE GOOD

José Antonio Ruiz-Martínez

“To show his love for her, he climbed the steep mountain, he delved into the deepest ocean and crossed from one end to the widest desert in the world. She decided to leave him because he was never home”. (He is a researcher and she is a beekeeper). Adapted from Allan and Barbara Pease. I have worked for over 20 years in development and beekeeping programs in Bolivia and Spain. As technician, researcher and beekeeper. The following comments are about that experience. Starting point: two different worlds required to understand. Researchers generate knowledge, and tries to answer why. It does not always offer solutions and practical applications. Their main interest is the publication in impact journals. Largely influenced by the funding, public or private. Producers are very focused on solutions and practical applications. Find answers to how, when and where. Their purpose is to produce and market. It is largely influenced by social organization and commercial structure of the sector. In the same way, the health in beekeeping has five levels of defense or actions: bees, beekeeper, veterinarian / beekeeping technician, lab of diagnosis and researching. From all these, the veterinarian / beekeeping technician has a close knowledge about the actual management (historical and clinical data) that beekeepers conducted on bee colonies locally. The lab of diagnosis, in this sense, would be a tool for the veterinary assistant in doubtful cases and researching would be an attempt to solve new problems and establishing new protocols. Therefore, it is proposed to strengthen the function of vets and technicians in research and development projects. They can be as a bridge, to get two-way connection and translation between these two paradigms. In this sense, several examples can be considered.

www.varroa.dk – an example of internet dissemination

Flemming Vejsnæs

Ole Kilpinen

The internet is growing faster and faster. A lot of beekeeping information can be found. The main part are recommendations made by beekeepers themselves. Not very reliably. The main part of the allegations are not documented or proven. We therefore decided to make a homepage giving the official recommendation for the Danish varroa strategy. The homepage has different sections. Some scientific background, many Danish articles and all the recommendations for the different varroa treatments. On the front-page there is always the to-do recommendation for good varroa treatment. All types of varroa treatment are also supported by short video instructions for all the treatments.

Very important is the Danish version of varroa weather (www.varroavejr.dk)(made in cooperation with southern Germany beekeeping institutes*). This is an important tool, where beekeepers can put in their zip code, getting the weather forecast for the next weeks' time, giving you recommendations for the different varroa treatments, dependent on temperature and humidity.

There is the possibility to contact an expert via a form on the homepage to get answers on relevant varroa questions.

As an important activity on varroa.dk, the beekeepers can make a preliminary multiply choice test on 10 questions. When you make the test, you will immediately get an answer on your performance. Recommending more study on the subject if needed. More than 1/3 of the registered beekeepers have passed the test.

Additionally the beekeeper can make the varroa certificate. Which is a more difficult examinen with 30 multiply choice questions. Here you need to have more than 80 % of the questions right. If so, the beekeeper gets the varroa certificate.

On the homepage the beekeepers find all relevant contact addresses. Especially the contact addresses to ours more than 100 varroa-instructors that we do educate in the latest new within fighting varroa. Those instructors do work in the local beekeeper clubs, where they do multiply the necessary information. In connection to www.varroa.dk, we do send out varroa newsletters 3-4 times a year. In this way we have regularly contact to close to 75 % of all beekeepers in Denmark.

*Url varroa weather in Germany:

http://www.wetter.rlp.de/Internet/global/inetcntr.nsf/dlr_web_full.xsp?src=C5X80AJE01&p1=05Y4210002&p3=D2KEU5C709&p4=XF10F330RV

Tasks for the B-RAP group

Preben Kristiansen

At the B-RAP meeting in Slovenia October 2015 we decided to work on some tasks that we find important for the work regarding dissemination of information. One of the tasks is to make a survey among beekeepers on what they regard as the biggest problems in their beekeeping and what they need to help solve these problems. Another important task we discussed was a guideline for good quality websites and information material, and even how we can utilize successful beekeepers as good examples (“lighthouses”). At the Beecome conference in Malmö, Sweden in March 2016 we got some input from beekeepers regarding the issues on information and training. At the workshop in Thessaloniki we wish to concentrate on the mentioned tasks and aim at finalizing a survey that can be done in a number of countries this spring.

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