

2016 APIMONDIA NEWSLETTER

Nº2



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Apimondia 2017. Istanbul - Turkey



APIMONDIA NEWSLETTER

Editorial

Since our last 'Newsletter' we have lost from our Apimondia family three people who have made major contributions to beekeeping.

Mr Bahri Yilmaz, President of the Turkish Beekeeping Association. Bahri was a stalwart in the beekeeping world and was instrumental in leading the Turkish Beekeepers over the past number of years. He was a true gentleman and will be sadly missed.

Joel Magsaysay, the Founding President of BEENET Philippines (member of Apimondia) passed away on June 24, 2016 due to heart failure. He owned 'Ilog Maria Honey-bee Farm'. He is survived by his wife, and four children.

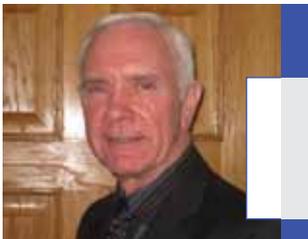
Theo Cherbuliez, our friend and mentor to many, died Saturday, the 2nd of July. He died peacefully at home with his family.

To the beekeeping world Theo was unique and his leadership of the Apitherapy Commission in Apimondia was exclamatory. Having accepted the position as Head of the Commission in 1997, at the Congress in Antwerp, he whole heartily threw himself into his role, indeed at times with personal financial donations. At meetings his well thought out contributions was inspirational and his commend of his subject set him apart, when Theo spoke everyone listened.

Peace and rest to them and our condolences to their families.

On a happier note it's great to hear about all the good work being undertaken by many research stations and laboratories on all aspects of our noble craft. However we need to come up with a way of capturing this good work and ensuring it's disseminated down to all of us. The bridge between the beekeepers and our scientists is somewhat wide at present so we must find a way bringing all closer together.

The world we now live in has become very unstable in a many areas, Paris, Brussels and Istanbul to name but a few cities that have been affected in recent times. This in turn generates many questions from members who have real and genuine concerns about travel. Congresses, Symposiums and Seminars of all kinds are continuing to be presented in these, and other cities across the world. If people could only think and act like our humble honeybee, what a wonderful world it would be.



Philip McCabe

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APIMONDIA 2016



By Dr. Jeff Pettis (USA)
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Apimondia Scientific Commission on Bee Health

The world in which we live and try to manage bees continues to change. In this changing world we cling to that which is familiar, working a beehive on a sunny day or meeting a friend to help them extract honey. Apimondia gives us a venue to share ideas and friendships across the globe, we need to embrace that opportunity. Since our last newsletter terrorist continue to try and disrupt what is normal. They have even struck in Turkey, the site of our next International Congress in 2017. We cannot let them win. Life is full of risks and we should not let random threats prevent us from participating fully in what life has to offer. I encourage you to plan to attend the meeting in Istanbul in 2017. We should work and live in a more collaborative nature and going about our lives without fear is a great start. Enjoy our bees and where the bees will take you.

On the subject of bee health; again the world we live in changes. Small hive beetles continue to spread and affect honey bees worldwide. Varroa has just been found in Australia, but maybe the less virulent species? World honey markets are affected by the adulteration of honey and even the local beekeeper is not immune to these threats as the purity of local honey can be questioned. We need better detection methods for honey adulteration but we each can play a role locally by raising awareness about honey and reporting suspected fraud. Lastly, the issue of GMOs and honey is ongoing with the widespread use on GMO crops in some areas making it virtually impossible to

produce honey that can be certified as GMO-free. While these issues with honey are not bee health issues directly they do impact the beekeeper and especially the purity and wholesome image of honey.

As the world around us continues to change, many of us seek calm in the workings of a bee hive. To understand the biology and to marvel at the cooperation in foraging, brood care and defense that make the hive function is to connect with the environment. Bees also connect us to the real world as we seek to discover the floral sources they use and stay in tune with the bloom cycles that drive bees to swarm or abscond. The better we understand bee biology the better off we are in managing bee diseases and pests. Yes we have many on-going issues in bee health and many are due to our own negligence in moving bees across the globe. So enjoy your bees and let them guide you to a better way of embracing the world. At Apimondia, with meetings, symposia and other forms of communication, we will continue to try and connect the world through bees.

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By Jodie Goldsworthy (AUS)

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Apimondia Regional Commission for Oceania

It is an exciting time to be involved in apiculture in the Oceania region. Public interest in bees is at an all-time high, and consumers are intrinsically fascinated by bees and in love with honey as a natural and healthy alternative to less-popular, highly processed sweeteners. This gives a positive base to build from as we, like other parts of the world, work on complex, cumulative and interrelated threats that face bees and beekeeping in our region.

Beekeeping as a hobby is increasing in both Australia and New Zealand. Beekeeping short courses are popping up everywhere, some being run by long-established honey bee extension service providers, and others being run by hobby beekeepers themselves who are keen to share their love for bees.

The situation in Australia

Australia has maintained its important and unique position of maintaining its varroa mite-free status, for which beekeepers are thankful, although at the time of writing we have just been notified of an incursion of varroa mite on an Asian bee swarm in Townsville which has been contained. It is evident that globally, chemical resistance to varroa mite treatments is increasing and the world is becoming worried about the viability of continued reliance on chemicals to keep bees alive. It is indeed a precarious situation where global food security is underpinned by pollination of bees, which now (in all countries except Australia) would not remain alive without the intervention of beekeepers and chemical treatments. For this reason, the world is increasingly taking notice of Australia as the last remaining stock of healthy honey bees.

The world is also looking to Australia as the source of the world's only honey and hive products that are totally free of varroa chemical residues. Australian beeswax is in unprecedented demand as the world understands that varroa mite chemical residues contaminate beeswax. Australia is likely to play an increased role in the future as a source of varroa mite-free bees for research and development of other bee diseases and honey bee health, along with being an important stock of clean bees for the rest of the world.

The situation in New Zealand

New Zealand has just hosted the incredibly successful Apiculture New Zealand National Conference in Rotorua. The conference is the result of the combining of their two beekeeping bodies into one single national peak body known as Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ). For any doubters of this combining of their industry structure, this conference would have surely been an overwhelmingly convincing demonstration of the benefits of such a collaborative approach. The conference attracted around 1400 delegates and over 150 trade stands in the ApiExpo.

My congratulations go to the small team of four volunteers who planned and organised this event with a very capable professional conference organising company. They have worked tirelessly to produce what I would consider the most successful and professional regional conference ever held in the Oceania region to date.

New Zealand's example provides an excellent case study for Australia to seriously consider the combination of its five different state-based conferences into one national event of significance where ideas can be freely exchanged, international speakers attracted and better utilized and resources pooled for far greater benefit than the current system of duplication of speakers and reports in various locations (an inaugural event is in the planning).



APIMONDIA 2016



By **Dr. Nicola Bradbear (UK)**

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Apimondia Scientific Commission on Beekeeping for Rural Development

At the next Apimondia Congress in Turkey in 2017, the Apimondia Standing Commission Beekeeping for Rural Development will have one Symposium focussing on natural, extensive beekeeping. This type of beekeeping is still practised in many developing countries, and is becoming of increasing interest to beekeepers world-wide as we seek to understand how best to look after bees, taking their on welfare into consideration.

For example, not everyone understands the self-healing benefits of allowing bees to swarm. Swarming bees are healthy bees - this message may come as a surprise to beekeepers who have been taught to rigorously prevent their bees from swarming.

Honey bee colonies have self-healing capacity, and swarming, by providing a break in brood rearing, helps to limit parasite increase. Beeswax and comb creation also play crucial roles in limiting the progress of pathogens, giving the new colony the best chance of a healthy start.

Of course there are good reasons why beekeepers have been taught to prevent swarming - to maximise the work force for honey production, and to prevent bees from swarming in areas where thousands of potentially stinging insects will not be tolerated - in this case, the beekeeper can best help the bees by anticipating swarming.

Swarming is the means by which honey bee colonies reproduce, and natural reproduction is nature's way to maintain genetic fitness of the whole honey bee population, with resilience to survive the stresses and strains that honey bees have to face in a changing environment.

In the June 2016 edition of Bees for Development Journal, Dr Wolfgang Ritter (until recently President of the APIMONDIA Honey Bee Health Commission) explains in detail the self-healing effects of swarming upon natural honey bee health.

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By Dr. Cleofas Rodriguez Cervancia (Philippines)

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A symposium on Impacts of and Alternatives to Systemic Pesticides was held in De La Salle University in Manila on June 15, 2016.

The topics were on neonicotinoids impact on biodiversity, Approaches to mitigate bee declines, ecological engineering, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Organic Farming.

The Symposium brings together scientist from the Philippines, Australia, Asia and Europe, as well as policy-makers, members of the International Task Force on Systemic Pesticides (TFSP), whose groundbreaking research on neonicotinoid insecticides is helping educate policy-makers on the impacts of systemic pesticides and the need for alternatives.

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By Etienne Bruneau (Belgium)

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Apimondia Scientific Commission on Technology and Quality

For the Technology and Quality Commission, the most important topic at this time is the adulteration of honey. The Joint Research Center of the European Union will probably publish its final report on this topic in September 2016.

The situation seems to be worse than what was presented in their first report (Coordinated control plan to establish the prevalence of fraudulent practices in marketing of honey – Preliminary results – December 2015).

One part of this problem probably comes from the presence on the market of products that sell as honey but is coming from bees fed with sugar. A need for the regulation on one particular product “honeycomb” has been requested by some countries. It’s important to point out that this kind of product does not meet the standards of the Codex for honey.

In this respect the first contacts were established by the presidency of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) Zhang Xiaogang from China who put on the agenda, bee products and not only royal jelly for which the international standards (12824) are now being prepared for publication. During the European Bee Week at the EU Parliament in Brussels, a round table was organized with European beekeepers.

Climate change is now recognized as having much more impact on beekeeping and this requires the need for more flexibility in beekeeping operation’s into the future. New tools need to be developed to help the beekeepers ensure better monitoring of their colonies and their environment.

The 4th symposium on Organic Beekeeping, ApiBio 2016, will be held in Santiago des Estero (Argentina) in September from 6th to 10th (www.apibio2016.com).

International Honey Commission is organising its next congress under the umbrella of Apimondia in Antalya (Turkey) between the dates 27-30 October 2016 (www.ihc2016antalya.com).

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By Professor Karl Crailsheim
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Apimondia Scientific Commission on Bee Biology

It is highly advisable to think and propose new topics of interest in each of our biannual Apimondia Conferences, as for other conferences such as the one which took place last February about stingless bees in Asia, as well as to work on the proposed topics between conferences. Many of these topics are not only the task of one commission and consequently, more cooperation between commissions will be needed in the future.

Patent on Bees

One topic is the fact that companies want to develop a patent on genetically modify honey bees. There was a round table discussion organized by our working group 10 in Daejeon (last congress in 2015) about this and the participants submitted a paper: "No patents on bees: Apimondia Resolution for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Bee Genetics Resources" that was discussed and judged as very important at the Executive Committee in Rome this May and put at the next meetings agenda.

Feeding the Honey Bee

Feeding our bees with sugars is an old and well known procedure in periods of dearth. More and more important becomes the feeding with pollen (protein-rich diet) or non pollen (protein diet without pollen) where much more knowledge is needed and the problem of contamination of honey with GMO Pollen in countries where this is a sensitive subject becomes more and more a problem.

Small Hive beetle

This honeybee parasite has now landed in Europe and in Asia and needs great attention.

Food resources for Honey Bees and Non Apis Bees

Honey bees and Non Apis Bees provide important ecosystem services by pollinating flowering plants in nature but they are also important for pollination in agricultural and horticultural crops. However, only little is known by the public about the biology, ecology and need for food resources for many Non Apis Bees. This is also true for the demands for nesting sites of many Non Apis Bees. The risk of competition for food resources between Honey Bees and Non Apis Bees are discussed on a limited scientific background.

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By Dr. Koos Biesmaijer (Netherlands)
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Pollinators enter the world policy stage.

The role of pollinators in maintaining our natural vegetation and in pollinating our crops is well-known. That is, to us who are familiar with beekeeping, but not necessarily to most other people in the world? That is why IPBES, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the United Nations, decided to commission a report on the state of pollinators and pollination in the world. The summary for policy-makers has now been signed by 124 governments and represents the world's knowledge on this topic. I was deeply involved in this process, coordinated one chapter of the report and discussed the policy summary at the IPBES meetings. I am very proud of the result and of putting pollinators on top of the policy agendas of most of the countries in the world.

So what did the report find? Here a summary of main points:

- More than three-quarters of the world's food crops rely at least in part on pollination by insects and other animals. Crop yields depend on both wild and managed species while diversity of pollinators leads to high and stable yields.
- The market value of this service amounts to between US\$235 billion and US\$577 billion.
- Nearly 90 percent of all wild flowering plants depend at least to some extent on animal pollination.
- Pollinators are under pressure and declining in many parts of the world, with often more than 40 percent of bee species threatened nationally. Interestingly, the number of honeybee hives has increased globally over the past 50 years, but a decrease in hives has occurred in many European and North American countries.
- Declines are primarily due to changes in land use, intensive agricultural practices and pesticide use, alien invasive species, diseases and pests, and climate change. The assessment found that pesticides, including neonicotinoid insecticides, threaten pollinators worldwide, although the long-term effects are still unknown.
- Pests and diseases pose a special threat to managed honeybees and bumblebees, but the risk can be reduced through better disease detection and management, and regulations relating to trade and movement of bees.
- Genetically modified crops are usually either tolerant to herbicides or resistant to pest insects. The former reduces the availability of weeds, which supply food for pollinators. The latter often results in lower use of insecticides and may reduce pressure on beneficial insects including pollinators. However, the sub-lethal and indirect effects of GM crops on pollinators are poorly understood and not usually accounted for in risk assessments.
- Numerous options exist to safeguard pollinators, including the promotion of sustainable agriculture, which helps diversify the agricultural landscape and makes use of ecological processes as part of food production; Maintaining or creating greater diversity of pollinator habitats in agricultural and urban landscapes; Education and exchange of knowledge among farmers, scientists, industry, communities, and the general public; Decreasing exposure of pollinators to pesticides by reducing their usage, seeking alternative forms of pest control, and adopting a range of specific application practices, including technologies to reduce pesticide drift; and improving managed bee husbandry for pathogen control, coupled with better regulation of trade and use of commercial pollinators.

Altogether a big step for all of us bee-loving people! More information can be found at <http://www.ipbes.net/work-programme/pollination>



APIMONDIA 2017

Istanbul -Turkey

Let's bee where the continents meet...

www.apimondia2017.org

International Apicultural Congress Istanbul - TURKEY September 29-October 4, 2017

APICULTURE IN TURKEY

In Anatolia apiculture is based on a nine thousand years old history. The first law of the world on apiculture is known as the Hittite Tablets, which were written four thousand years ago. Anatolia still conserves its appropriate position for apiculture. Due to Turkey's climate, rich botanical diversity and status as a transitional region between the European and Asian continents, it has one of the highest potentials in the world for apiculture.

With 150.000 families engaged in beekeeping and 6.8 million bee colonies, Turkey is at the second place in apiculture in the world.

Beekeepers in Turkey work with modern techniques and equipment. 75% of our total colonies, which is 4.9 million colonies, are used in itinerant beekeeping activity, and change location an average of three times per year for a total of 2.000 km of bee transport. In this way, they travel all Turkey throughout the season, following various routes.

Official Status

- 80 city associations
- 58,000 members
- 6.8 million colonies
- 104.5 thousand tons of honey production
- 118 colonies for each member
- 16 kg production per colony

Turkey is a home to 10.000 native plant species, nearly 3.900 of which are endemic. The most important feature which makes Turkey botanically interesting is that Turkey contains three different phytogeographic zones (European-Siberian, Mediterranean, and Iranian-Turanian), and serves as a bridge between Europe and Asia. Nearly 500 plants in our country are known to provide nectar or pollen, and nearly 50 of them are identified as dominant nectar plants. Chestnut honey, thyme honey, mountain meadow honey, citrus honey, rhododendron honey and mixed flower honey are some of the most famous honey types in Turkey.

CONGRESS OVERVIEW

Date 29 September - 4 October 2017 - City Istanbul
Host Association Turkish Association of Beekeepers (TAB)

DATES

- 28 Sept 2017: Pre Tours
- 29 Sept 2017: Exhibition Opening / Opening Ceremony
- 30 Sept 2017: Exhibition / Scientific Program
- 01 Oct 2017: Exhibition / Scientific Program
- 02 Oct 2017: Exhibition / Scientific Program
- 03 Oct 2017: Exhibition / General Assembly / Closing Ceremony
- 04 Oct 2017: Technical Tours