

DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF A BEE FARM DEDICATED TO QUEEN PRODUCTION IN COLONIA PEHUENCHE (MALARGÜE, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA)

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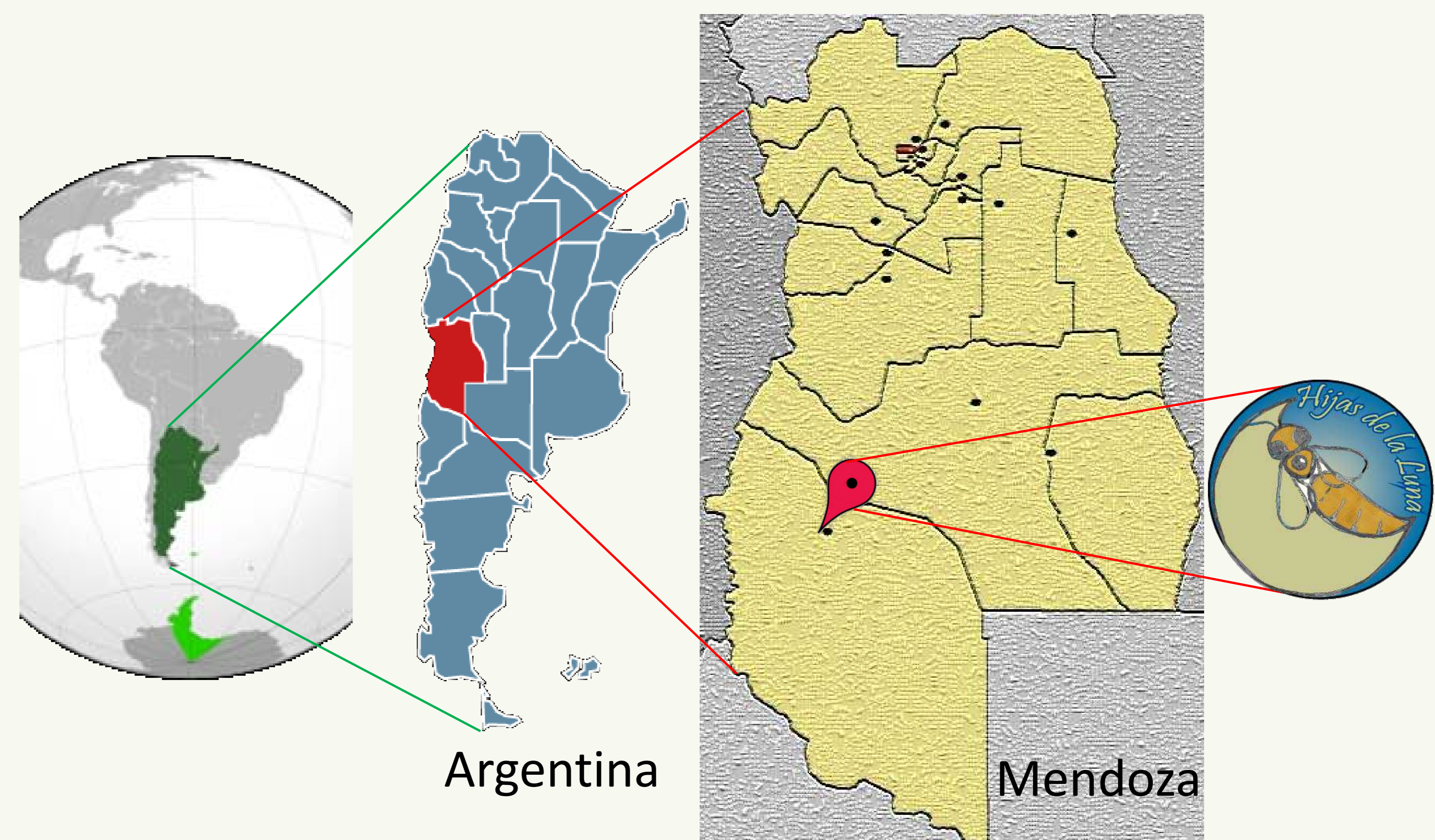
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Abstract (Resumen)

The vegetation, climate and sanitary characteristics of Mendoza (Argentina) distinguish the province as an ideal location for the production of nuclei, packages and queens. A healthy amount of producers oriented to queen production for both domestic and international markets is found in this region. Even though general features are shared throughout the region, it offers some unique characteristics with regard to the work of each queen producer due to the subtle diversity of the province's ecosystems and other human factors. **A descriptive study of the primary characteristics of a Mendoza queen producer's bee farm** (case study) may later aid a comparative study to profile the characteristics of this particular area of bee farming in the region. This study analyzes a bee farm **located in Colonia Pehuenche (Malargüe, Mendoza, Argentina)**. The work was performed by a Breeders' Association technician and the beekeepers responsible for the bee farm. The methodology used comprised an interview based upon a standardized questionnaire together with information obtained in at least two visits to the bee farm over more than one season. This information was organized in diagrams and graphics that allow an easy and intuitive way of recognizing the main characteristics of queen production at the bee farm studied.

Identification and location (Identificación y localización)

Reinas Hijas de la Luna	
Inaugurated in Inaugurada en	2007
Location Ubicación	Colonia Pehuenche, Malargüe, Mendoza, Argentina.
Distance to Mendoza city Distancia a la ciudad de Mendoza	298 Km.
Distance to Buenos Aires city Distancia a la ciudad de Buenos Aires	1031 Km.



Some pictures (Algunas imágenes)



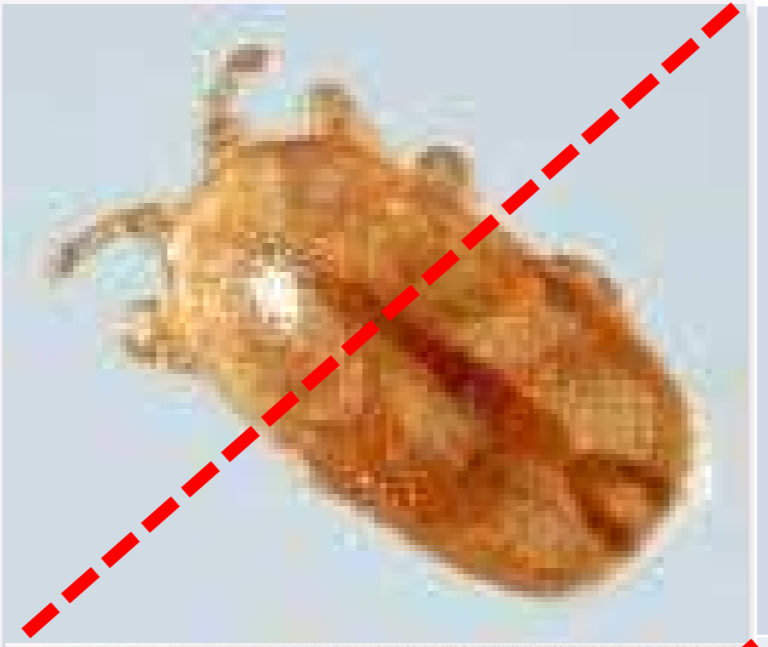
The bees
Las abejas



Landscape & climate – Clima y paisaje



Sanitary status (Estatus sanitario)

	Argentina	Mendoza	Reinas Hijas de la Luna
			Free of clinical evidence. No identification of causal agent. Enfermedad y agente causal nunca observados .
			Free of clinical evidence. No identification of causal agent. Enfermedad y agente causal nunca observados .

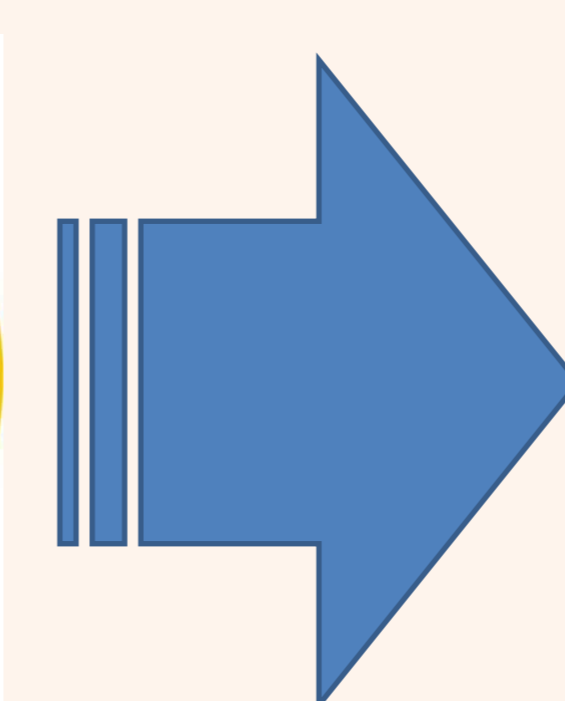
Production data (Información de la producción)

Products Productos	Queens - Queen Cells - Honey Reinas - Celdas Reales - Miel
Production of queens between... Producción de reinas entre...	November - March Noviembre - Marzo
Production philosophy Filosofía de trabajo	Love for honeybees, respect for nature, quality of work. Amor por las abejas, respeto por la naturaleza, calidad en el trabajo.
Parameters evaluated in queen breeding program Parámetros de selección para la cría de reinas	Highly productive progeny, hygienic behavior, gentle temper. Alta productividad, comportamiento higiénico, mansedumbre.

Associative participation (Participación en organizaciones asociativas)

Regional Queen Bee Breeders Association
from Mendoza, Argentina

Asociación Mendocina de Criadores de Abejas Reinas (AMCAR)



Bee breeding program in a geographically isolated drone congregation area

Programa de selección genética en una zona de fecundación geográficamente aislada