



Le Butineur

Pollinium.fr, créateur de biodiversité



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– Beehive history –

A great nose, without a nose

Newsletter of bees of ADELAC

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Committed to protect biodiversity, ADELAC invests in sponsorship of bees. Come and get an inside peek of the incredible life of foraging bees. If you are a nature lover, you will certainly enjoy it.



– Beehive history –

Meeting time



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Today, there is a meeting! At the bees' too, you may hear of an acute mania for meetings...More precisely, it's up to a beekeeper to manage their schedule because bees would never request such a thing. In autumn, it's sometimes wise to 'combine' two beehives in order to create a single one. The insects, however, don't agree with it and they would prefer to stay in their respective beehives. It's therefore necessary to proceed with tact, and to some extent, use tricks so as to avoid significant damage. There are several methods to combine two beehives. One of them consists in spraying with the syrup water (mint for instance, they love it!) all the frames of the two beehives to be combined including all the bees inside.

This has the advantage of standardizing the scent of the two colonies. Then you just need to transfer the frames of the first beehive to the other and move the remaining bees to their new habitat.

Everyone will be happy and the marriage goes smoothly. Except for one of the two queens, of course, who will certainly lose her life in the fight against her opponent.

But, actually, why do we combine two beehives? This should only be done in two specific situations. When a beehive is known as 'orphan', i.e. when it goes queenless. In autumn, a beekeeper does

it to prepare the winter season. A bigger swarm has, indeed, a better chance of surviving the winter than a smaller one.



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In the USA, they use bees for the detection of mines; in France, researchers are interested in them, beside dogs, in order to detect cancer and other illnesses. *Apis mellifera's* olfaction has no equal in nature. A bee doesn't only use it to find food, but also to communicate with her sisters.

Their antennae actually allow them to detect odours. A bee is capable of identifying flowers thanks to their scent, and to memorise them. Each beehive also has its olfactory signature and that's how its inhabitants recognise each other. So if an intruder tries to get in, she will quickly be spotted.



– Bees and men –

Uniting without fighting

Business press regularly reports on mergers and acquisitions among competing firms which unite to consolidate their market position. What remains to be done once the shares of the target company are bought, is to reorganise the new entity and, especially, to preserve the motivation of the employees who were previously competitors. The establishment of a new management, the maintenance of confidence and the cohesion of teams are a real issue.

Combining 2 beehives is very much similar to that. How to create one colony out of two swarms which are so heavily imbued with the hormones of 2 different queens? The risk of confusion between the two groups, even widespread fights between the bees (who consider each other as competitors and enemies) are real. The only solution is to orphan one

of the two colonies i.e. to withdraw its queen (the least fertile, the oldest, the weakest). Next, it will be necessary to promote progressive exchanges between the two communities, which will gradually grow into one colony based on the hormones of the single queen that was chosen to unify the two hives.

Finally, beehive and company mergers are comparable: they require reflection, method and finesse, without which effusion and confusion are likely to reverse all the expected benefits of this 're-union'.

Henri Duchemin,

beekeeper, sociologist and founder of Mélilot Consulting.

Check his website for more articles: <http://melilotconsulting.com>



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– Beehive history –

Brush, a thorn in the side of bees

A beekeeper always has a funny little broom in his toolbox: a bee brush. Its bristles at the end of the handle are either made of nylon or coir and can be up to 5 centimetres long. Ideally, they should be very soft and flexible so that they don't jostle or squash the insects.

Bees, actually, don't like it too much... And for a good reason: a bee brush is used to force them to leave a honeycomb, a location, a beehive etc. Anyway, a bee brush disturbs them! A beekeeper uses it to delicately push them away, for example, in order to remove a frame

during the honey crop.

A beekeeper may also use a bee brush to remove a swarm attached to a branch, to guide bees towards their new house, to push away those who are hanging around the edges of a beehive before it closes...A beekeeper needs it whenever he visits a hive and it is his number three after a hive tool and a bee smoker.



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Brief

Proverbs and sayings

«Words are like bees – some create honey and others leave a sting»

William Longgood

NÉO-NICOTINOÏDS



Since 1st September, the use neonicotinoids is forbidden in France. They provoke a deadly addiction in bees. France runs ahead of the EU regulation.



Eczema, or atopic dermatitis, the bane of many children and adults, may be cured with bee venom. In any case, that's the outcome of a recently published South Korean study.