

# Apitherapy in the Western world

## What is Apitherapy?

- Activity that involves somehow one or several products of the hive
- Anyone can call themselves Apitherapists
- Practiced by any- and everybody
- Has existed for more than 2000 years.

# Apitherapy

## Historical Features

- **Origins** extremely vast in time, place, culture
- **Time:** from the very old traditions to most recently adopted practices
- **Place:** wherever bees survive there can be, and often is, Apitherapy
- **Culture:** the traditions, values, technological development.

# Apitherapy

## Structural Features

- **They mirror their histories**
- **Composed of multiple unrelated fragments not yet united**
- **Place: Major influence of technological advances on diversity and quality**
- **Can be heavily influenced (enriched? contaminated?) by other therapeutic realities : eg CTM**
- **Currently: extremely rapid rate of growth.**

# Apitherapy

## Relationship to Medicine

- Variable depending on countries
- Mostly distant or conflictual: differences in thinking principles
- Competitive view
- Understanding of complementarities poorly developed
- Apprehension about dangers of Apitherapy, particularly BVT

# Apitherapy

## Relationship to the Law (and Medicine)

- **“Apitherapist” not recognized as licensed occupation**
- **Risks of the following sequence: <an intervention, not conventional, that causes “harm”> is actionable.**
- **The Law is stronger in its ability to attack Apitherapy than to protect it.**

# Apitherapy

## The material studies : 84 abstracts

- **Clinical explorations: specific cases and general conditions (27 cases)**
- **Studies of products and their effects in the laboratory or on animals (32)**
- **Chemical examination of products and their potential (16)**
- **Links of Apitherapy with other modalities (6)**
- **Collaboration between allopathic medicine and Apitherapy (3)**

# Apitherapy

## Conclusion

- **The most important task is to further development of our knowledge concerning the medicinal use of the products of the hive**
- A reconciliation between the values and methods of allopathic medicine and that of Apitherapy, by a definition of the areas where one is useful and where the other should prevail, and ways to use them together
- **Defining standards of the knowledge and experience necessary for the practice of Apitherapy**
- **Defining standards of the products and their indication.**

**Thank you !**