



Apimondia Newsletter January 2024

Call for support to beekeepers of Ukraine

Dear global beekeeping community and everyone interested in beekeeping!

As the Non-Governmental Organization [Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers](#), a member of the International Federation of Beekeeping Associations Apimondia, we express our deep respect to the leadership of Apimondia, to all beekeeping associations.

The military aggression of the Russian Federation in Ukraine is causing colossal damage, both to Ukrainian citizens and to the country's economy as a whole. Agriculture, including beekeeping, is suffering significant losses.

We need your help! Learn more and support us.

Your respectfully,
Tetyana Vasylykivska

[Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers](#)

www.facebook.com/veteran.and.bees

New film- The Mystery of the Bee Society

It took hundreds of years for humanity to realize that there was another, more perfect culture standing next to it, from which there was much to learn. Wasn't that insight made too late because mankind had also brought this exceptional society to its knees?

What is the mystery of the bee society, and how can we save that perfect harmony of nature in the hope of saving ourselves? These questions are covered with world leading experts in their fields.

Watch the film: www.apimondia.org/latest/the-mystery-of-honeybee-society

Bee Health Symposium 2024

AVESPA, APIMONDIA and Universidad Complutense de Madrid are organizing Bee Health Symposium in June 2024, Madrid, Spain

The Symposium draws international attention to the welfare status of honeybee production and the impact of health in the animals and environment. The event will bring together beekeepers and international experts from the scientific community to foster research and share experiences and new practices in beekeeping to protect the health of bees, consumers, and our world.

[More details and registration](#)

Research highlights

The EurBeST consortium involved experts in beekeeping, bee biology, breeding, economics and statistics. They analysed the EU market for honey bee reproductive material and ran a literature review and expert interviews on the state of play in varroa resistance. Selection programs on varroa resistance were reported in 20 EU countries and naturally resistant populations in six. However, commercially available resistant stock was found to be present in only four countries.

See the article here: *Buechler, R et al., (2022) EurBeST –a pilot study testing varroa resistant bees under commercial beekeeping conditions. [American Bee Journal, 62 \(2\): 213-215](#)*

Honey bees are one of the most commonly employed matrices in environmental monitoring of pesticides. In the present work, the passive, non-invasive APIStrip-based sampling approach is compared to active bee sampling with a total of 240 samples taken from 15 apiaries from Austria, Denmark and Greece over a two-month period in 2022. The use of APIStrips allowed to detect 66 pesticides in the three countries, compared to 38 residues in honey bees.

More details here: *María Murcia-Morales et al. (2023) Enhancing the environmental monitoring of pesticide residues through Apis mellifera colonies: Honey bees versus passive sampling. Science of the Total Environment 884 (2023) 163847*
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.163847>

A horizon scanning exercise was conducted with 20 experts across Europe to identify emerging threats and opportunities for managed bees in European agricultural systems. These ranged from local landscape-level management to geopolitical issues on a continental and global scale across seven broad themes- pesticides & pollutants, Technology, Management practices, Predators & parasites, Environmental stressors, Crop modification, and Political & trade influences. The opportunities and threats identified will likely be relevant to other regions.

Details of the article here: *Bryony K. Willcox (2023) Emerging threats and opportunities to managed bee species in European agricultural systems: a horizon scan. Scientific Reports, 13:18099 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-45279-w>*

Landscape design can predict the performance of pollinator-dependent crops. While conventional agricultural practices may increase crop productivity in the short term, they typically lead to biodiversity and pollinator loss, which can be particularly problematic for pollinator-dependent crops. Here, we explored alternative approaches that promote the inclusion and restoration of natural habitats to improve pollination services and stabilize crop yields. We found that landscape configuration and composition were important predictors of the performance of a pollinator-dependent crop, the sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), in Argentina.

See the article below: *Goldenberg et al., (2023) Landscape configuration is an important predictor of sunflower yield in the Argentinean Pampas Region. Ecología Austral 33:170-177. <https://doi.org/10.25260/EA.23.33.1.0.2061>*

Meet the team

Who's who in Apimondia board and management? [Meet the team - APIMONDIA](#)

Editor of newsletter

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