PP-050 [Bee Health]

Results of monitoring the biological relationship of Africanized bees with Varroa since 2002 in two geographical areas of Santa Cruz, Bolivia

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No Afilliation

Varroa has become the number one threat to beekeeping worldwide. The solution to this problem has been to control Varroa with sanitary treatments. Today we see that this solution has further complicated the possibility of a sustainable solution, leading hives to a state of dependence and Varroa to a state of resistance. In our Africanized region, since 2000 we have been monitoring the relationship between bees and Varroa, focusing on two factors: the hygienic behavior of bees and variations in Varroa populations in hives. The results show that our bees and Varroa have developed strategies of coexistence and balance, so that it is not necessary to carry out any type of sanitary treatment against Varroa. These results were published at different beekeeping conferences of ADAPICRUZ (Beekeepers Association of the Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia). It is a fact that Africanized bees have populated the entire tropical zone of America from northern Argentina to Mexico, including southern Bolivia. In this area of our country the results are different. The bees are highly dependent on health controls. This shows that the factors of co-evolution between bees and Varroa have varied despite having the same genetic origin and the same environment. The differentiating factor is the management techniques and, above all, the implementation of preventive treatments on a sustained basis without a strategic objective. Pest and disease control in hives, which is in the minds of producers, continues to advance stealthily, seriously jeopardizing the results obtained in our production system, based on the biological balance of bees with their threats, on solutions based on nature and without health control. It is urgent to make an objective analysis, we all know that the only way out of this situation is through achieving a relationship of coexistence between bees and varroa that makes beekeeping viable as a productive sector and the survival of bees in the medium and long term.