



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

January 2017

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to AHBIC are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer/queen bee supplier to AHBIC.

We urge beekeepers to support those Packers/Queen Bee Breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

**Does your HONEY BUYER or QUEEN BEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?
If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 February 2016

There are a few other contributors – some wishing to remain anonymous and some not indicating their wishes

AB's Honey
Anderson, Stuart
Australian Organic Honey Company
Ayrleigh Apiaries
Badger Head Bees
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bejo Tasmania P/L
Bluebees Producers
Blue Hills Honey
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cooper, Barry
Cooper, Casey
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dale's Honey Bees
Davey, Robin
Davies Apiaries

Dewar Apiaries
Dewar, Robert
Dyer, Craig
Enslin, Darren
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey
Glasby, Garry
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.
Green, Lionel
Gustare Honey Australia
Heritage Honey
Honeylife Australia
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Bryn and Warren
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Le Feuvre, Danny

Lyneham, Matthew
Masters, Neil & Sharon
MacGibbon, Kevin
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Association Inc.
Panda Honey – honey buyers
Pavy, Rodney & Gail
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
Rotary Club of Caulfield
Ruge Honey
Shaw, Robert
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Tasmanian Honey Company
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Williams JW & MA
Zadow, Ian and Mel

Thank you to all our contributors. AHBIC appreciates your ongoing support.

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ADJUVANT AFFECTS LARVAE

A report out of Penn State University in the USA found that a common adjuvant makes larvae more susceptible to black queen cell virus. It should be noted that this is research carried out in the laboratory and not in the field. The reality is that problems would normally only arise if plants are sprayed whilst in bloom. So if the chemical is not used at flowering then there should not be any problem. The report said:-

A chemical that is thought to be safe and is, therefore, widely used on crops -- such as almonds, wine grapes and tree fruits -- to boost the performance of pesticides, makes honey bee larvae significantly more susceptible to a deadly virus, according to researchers at Penn State and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"In the lab, we found that the commonly used organosilicone adjuvant, Sylgard 309, negatively impacts the health of honey bee larvae by increasing their susceptibility to a common bee pathogen, the Black Queen Cell Virus," said Julia Fine, graduate student in entomology, Penn State. "These results mirror the symptoms observed in hives following almond pollination, when bees are exposed to organosilicone adjuvant residues in pollen, and viral pathogen prevalence is known to increase. In recent years, beekeepers have reported missing, dead and dying brood in their hives following almond pollination, and exposure to agrochemicals, like adjuvants, applied during bloom, has been suggested as a cause."

According to Chris Mullin, professor of entomology, Penn State, adjuvants in general greatly improve the efficacy of pesticides by enhancing their toxicities.

"Organosilicone adjuvants are the most potent adjuvants available to growers," he said. "Based on the California Department of Pesticide Regulation data for agrochemical applications to almonds, there has been increasing use of organosilicone adjuvants during crop blooming periods, when two-thirds of the U.S. honey bee colonies are present." Fine noted that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies organosilicone adjuvants as biologically inert, meaning they do not cause a reaction in living things.

"As a result," she said, "there are no federally regulated restrictions on their use."

To conduct their study, the researchers reared honey bee larvae under controlled conditions in the laboratory. During the initial stages of larval development, they exposed the larvae to a low chronic dose of Sylgard 309 in their diets. They also exposed some of the larvae to viral pathogens in their diets on the first day of the experiment.

"We found that bees exposed to the organosilicone adjuvant had higher levels of Black Queen Cell Virus," said Fine. "Not only that, when they were exposed to the virus and the organosilicone adjuvant simultaneously, the effect on their mortality was synergistic rather than additive, meaning that the mortality was higher from the simultaneous application of adjuvant and virus than from exposure to either the organosilicone adjuvant or the viral pathogen alone, even if those two mortalities were added together," said Fine. "This suggests that the adjuvant is enhancing the damaging effects of the virus."

The researchers also found that a particular gene involved in immunity -- called 18-wheeler -- had reduced expression in bees treated with the adjuvant and the virus, compared to bees in the control groups.

"Taken together, these findings suggest that exposure to organosilicone adjuvants negatively influences immunity in honey bee larvae, resulting in enhanced pathogenicity and mortality," said Fine.

The results appeared Jan. 16 in **Scientific Reports**.

Mullin noted that the team's results suggest that recent honey bee declines in the United States may, in part, be due to the increased use of organosilicone adjuvants.

"Billions of pounds of formulation and tank adjuvants, including organosilicone adjuvants, are released into U.S. environments each year, making them an important component of the chemical landscape to which bees are exposed," he said. "We now know that at least Sylgard 309, when combined at a field-relevant concentration with Black Queen Cell Virus, causes synergistic mortality in honey bee larvae."

HONEY EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA

Still no joy at this time. Negotiations are still going on.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS TO THE USA

Again still no result here.

AGM

Annual conferences for 2017, in chronological order, as I currently have them are:-

WA Farmers Federation – Beekeeping Section	13 May - Perth
New South Wales Apiarists Association	18 & 19 May - Ballina
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	26 & 27 May - Hobart
Victorian Apiarists Association	7 & 8 June - Warrnambool
Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Aust.	23 June
Queensland Beekeepers Association	29 June – 1 July - Gympie
South Australian Apiarists Association	6 & 7 July- Adelaide
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	8 July - Adelaide
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA

The dates for the South Australian Conference and the AHBIC AGM may change. Will advise when the final information is received.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 107562
Product name: Relyon Lymo 225 Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 225 g/L methomyl (an anti-cholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Ruralco Holdings Limited
Applicant ACN: 009 660 879
Summary of use: For the control of insect pests in various crops
Date of registration: 12 December 2016
Product registration no.: 83117
Label approval no.: 83117/107562

Application no.: 107260
Product name: Titan Lambda-Cyhalothrin 250 CS Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 250 g/L lambda-cyhalothrin
Applicant name: Titan Ag Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 122 081 574
Summary of use: For the control of certain insect pests in cotton, wheat, barley and other crops
Date of registration: 5 January 2017
Product registration no.: 82982
Label approval no.: 82982/107260

Application no.:	107732
Product name:	Relyon Suspectin 18EC Insecticide/Miticide
Active constituent/s:	18 g/L abamectin
Applicant name:	Ruralco Holdings Limited
Applicant ACN:	009 660 879
Summary of use	For the control of pest mites on pears, apples, tomatoes, citrus, hops, strawberries and ornamentals. For the control of pest mites and native budworm on cotton
Date of registration:	5 January 2017
Product registration no.:	83210
Label approval no.:	83210/107732
Application no.:	105884
Product name:	KDPC Mectin Insecticide/Miticide
Active constituent/s:	18 g/L abamectin
Applicant name:	KD Plant Care Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	134 592 804
Summary of use	For the control of certain mites on apples, capsicums, citrus, cotton, hops, ornamentals, pears, tomatoes and strawberries and native budworm on cotton
Date of registration:	13 January 2017
Product registration no.:	82498
Label approval no.:	82498/105884
Application no.:	107303
Product name:	Relyon Dimex 400EC Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	400 g/L dimethoate (an anticholinesterase compound)
Applicant name:	Ruralco Holdings Limited
Applicant ACN:	009 660 879
Summary of use	For the control of a wide range of insect pests on fruit trees, certain vegetables, citrus, pastures, cotton, lucerne, peanuts and ornamentals
Date of registration:	16 January 2017
Product registration no.:	83009
Label approval no.:	83009/107303
Application no.:	107993
Product name:	Huilong Abamectin Miticide/Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	18 g/L abamectin
Applicant name:	Huilong Agrochemicals Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	165 921 031
Summary of variation:	To change the distinguishing product name and the name that appears on the label from 'AGSPRAY ABAMECTIN MITICIDE/INSECTICIDE' to 'HUILONG ABAMECTIN MITICIDE/INSECTICIDE'
Date of variation:	27 September 2016
Product registration no.:	60612
Label approval no.:	60612/107993

CATEGORISATION

No word yet on what the PHA Board has decided on the category for *Varroa destructor*.

FRIENDLY FOR BEES

An article on ABC Rural describes using nanotechnology to do away with the use of pesticides to protect plants. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-11/bioclay-spray-to-fight-pests-and-diseases/8176490>

They spray the plants with a special clay called "Bioclay". If the report is as good as it looks then there would be no need to use pesticides on plants to protect them and this could only have great benefits to beekeepers in that there would be no poisoning of bees. Guess we watch this space.

COMMUNICATION WITH CROP CONSULTANTS AUSTRALIA

AHBIC has made contact with Crop Consultants Australia. It is the crop consultants who usually recommend to farmers what they should do with their crops including spraying with pesticides. AHBIC felt it was important that we have this contact so we can put our case forward for the use of more bee friendly chemicals.

The initial contact has been positive with the possibility that AHBIC will be invited to make a presentation at one of the Crop Consultants seminars this year.

This consultation is part of efforts by AHBIC to reduce the incidents of bee hive losses due to poisoning. Other consultations are to be held with the Aerial Applicators i.e. spray plane operators and with Cotton Australia.

RESEARCH TO CUT SUMMER FUN SHORT FOR MAJOR BEEHIVE PEST

Beekeepers are being urged to remain on the lookout for Small Hive Beetle (SHB) this summer, ahead of research field trials attempting to trap the pest and reduce its spread.

The first incursion of SHB in Australia was detected in 2002 and has since cost the local beekeeping industry millions of dollars annually.

Small Hive Beetle (SHB) is particularly active during warm and humid conditions, feeding on bee larvae and turning honey into fermented slime.

A Queensland-based research team – led by Dr Diana Leemon and Dr Andrew Hayes – is currently developing a synthetic lure to deploy in a trap to capture the beetle, as part of a project funded by the Honey Bee and Pollination Program.

“To date, lab studies have identified compounds present in natural substances that are highly attractive to SHB,” Dr Leemon said.

“These compounds have been blended together into a lure to attract beetles towards a trap instead of a beehive, and field testing of the lure has started this month in various locations near active bee hives around Queensland.”

“Trapping of SHB with a natural attractant is currently being carried out to gather information on the movement and behaviour of SHB, and this information will help determine the best time and place to deploy traps with the synthetic lure.”

Chairman of the Honey Bee and Pollination Program, Michael Hornitzky, said the research was crucial in managing SHB incursions.

“It is exciting research in terms of developing the odour lure and modifying a non-specific commercial trap to contain the lure,” Dr Hornitzky said.

“It is hoped that this research could help the beekeeping industry establish more extensive eradication strategies for the future.”

Results from the field trials are due to be released mid-2017.

SHB is now established throughout coastal regions of Australia, from Cape York in Queensland, to Adelaide and northern parts of Western Australia.

Incursions can badly disturb honey production, and in some cases result in the complete loss of hives.

Beekeepers in affected areas are encouraged to closely monitor any signs of changes to their hives, and contact their respective state or territory agricultural department for advice if the beetle is detected.

For more information go to www.beeaware.org.au

HIVES IN BY HELICOPTER

Lindsay Bourke (in Tasmania) used a helicopter to get his beehives into the leatherwood flow due to a bridge being not serviceable.

See video at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-22/bees-get-airlifted/8201490>

We had the case of a beekeeper using a helicopter to ferry out hives in south west Queensland due to the wet conditions last year but this maybe the first time in Australia that the helicopter has been used to get hives into an area.

Let us hope the bridge gets fixed or the helicopter will again be in use to get the hives out.

EXTERNAL LURE FOR SMALL HIVE BEETLE

Dr. Diana Leemon from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is moving into a field trial looking to develop an external lure for small hive beetle (SHB). See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-24/researchers-and-farmers-battle-bee-pest/8207920>

SHB is a pest that entered Australia in 2002 and has since spread to mainland eastern Australia, South Australia and the northern part of Western Australia.

Dr. Leemon’s project is funded by the Honey Bee and Pollination Program and the external lure is the Holy Grail for beekeepers in their efforts to keep SHB under control.



MEDIA RELEASE

Applications now open: Students studying agriculture have access to scholarship

11 January 2017

Applications for the Horizon Scholarship are now open to first-year university students studying agriculture-related degrees.

The Horizon Scholarship, an initiative of the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) in partnership with industry sponsors, provides \$5,000 per year for the duration of a student's university degree. Applications close on Friday, 24 February 2017.

The Horizon Scholarship also offers students annual industry work placements, access to industry leaders, professional development assistance, and opportunities to network and gain knowledge at a range of industry events.

RIRDC's Managing Director John Harvey said the Horizon Scholarship provides real and practical benefits for the students involved and as a result will differentiate them from their peers.

"The students involved in the Horizon Scholarship are expanding their networks and learning new skills. Combined with easing the financial burden on students and families, the Scholarship is opening doors for these future agricultural leaders," Mr Harvey said.

"The Scholarship attracts students who are collaborative, dynamic, passionate and want to be future leaders of Australia's agricultural industries - it is special group of young people and we look forward to welcoming more of them into the Scholarship in 2017."

To be eligible for the Horizon Scholarship students must be entering their first year of university and studying a degree related to agriculture, such as agricultural science, rural science, livestock/animal science, veterinary science or agribusiness and plant science. Students must also have started their tertiary studies no longer than two years after leaving high school.

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their commitment to a career in agriculture, as well as their leadership potential and high school academic record.

Applications close on Friday, 24 February 2017 and shortlisted applicants must be available for a telephone interview in March 2017. The Scholarship winners will be announced in May 2017.

Application forms can be downloaded from the RIRDC website at www.rirdc.gov.au/horizon or by contacting RIRDC on 02 6923 6916.

Sponsors of the Horizon Scholarship are the Australian Egg Corporation, ANZ, the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited, McCaughey Memorial Institute, Meat & Livestock Australia, Sugar Research Australia, and RIRDC (Rice and Chicken Meat research programs).

Media contact: Samantha Munro, RIRDC Communications Manager, ph.02 6923 6916.



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TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Name:

Address:
.....

Email: (Please PRINT clearly).....

Phone: Date:

Yes I wish to support my industry

Up to 50 hives = \$50.00 51 and over hives = \$1.00 per hive

Please indicate **YES** or **NO**

1. Please publicise my name (as a contributor) on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter
2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report
3. Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (email preferred)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Your contribution can be paid by **CHEQUE** (or Money Order) or **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

CHEQUE \$

DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....

**Please return this form to AHBIC - by post or email
so your contribution can be recorded correctly**

When paying by Direct Deposit please -

- ◆ quote your Name as the Reference
- ◆ email your details (as above) to ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc
Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 150 976 405



**Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.
It is gratefully appreciated.**