

Factsheet #102

COMMON BEEKEEPING TERMS

- . **Acarine** Infestation of the trachea of the adult honeybee by the microscopic mite *Acarapis woodi*. Generally called the (honeybee) tracheal mite, or HBTM.

- . **AFB** American Foulbrood, a bacterial disease caused by *Paenibacillus larvae*.

- . **Antibiotics** Drugs used to assist in the control of several bacterial and protozoal diseases.

- . **Apiary** Location where one or more honeybee colonies are kept.

- . **Apiculture** The keeping and management of the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*.

- . **Apistan** Trade name of a miticide used to control Varroa mites with the active ingredient *fluvalinate*, which is a synthetic pyrethroid characterized by its low (mammalian) toxicity.

- . **Apivar** Trade name of a miticide used to control Varroa mites with the active ingredient *amitraz*. The product has been made available in 2008 on a temporary basis until April 27, 2009 after which the product will undergo a complete review by Health Canada.

- . **Asiatic bee** The Asiatic honey bee, *Apis cerana*, is widely distributed throughout southern and south-east Asia. The colonies are small and produce small quantities of honey. Some important diseases affecting European honey bees originated in *Apis cerana*.

- . **Bees Wax** A glandular secretion of animal wax used for many purposes in the hive.

- . **Brood Food** Glandular secretions of highly nutritious food used to feed young larvae and queens.

- . **Build-up** The natural increase in population of honeybees within a colony, from the spring cluster until the peak population is reached at the start of the main nectar flow (honey flow).

- . **Capping** A thin layer of wax covering cells containing honey. Bee brood cells are covered with a permeable, porous layer of wax.

- . **Chalkbrood** A fungal disease causing the mummification of bee brood by *Ascosphaera apis*.

- . **CheckMite+** Trade name of a miticide used in the control of Varroa mites with the active ingredient *coumaphos*.

- . **Colony** A cluster of worker-bees with a queen and drones.
- . **Drawn Comb** Combs of completed cells.
- . **EFB** European Foulbrood, a bacterial disease caused by *Melissococcus pluton*.
- . **Extracting** Removal of honey from the comb by placing honey frames in an extractor which spins the frames and removes the honey through centrifugal force.
- . **Foulbrood** Bee brood disease, involving either AFB or EFB.
- . **Foundation** Frames containing manufactured sheets of beeswax with the foundation of worker cells embossed into the wax.
- . **Fumagillin** Antibiotic specifically used to control the protozoan *Nosema apis*. Product sold under the trade name Fumidil-B.
- . **Hive** The box or boxes (called supers) in which honeybees are housed.
- . **Hive Tool** A flat piece of metal bent on one side, used for super and frame manipulation.
- . **Miticides** Products applied to honeybee colonies to control parasitic mites.
- . **Nectar** Carbohydrate food source gathered from the nectaries of flowers.
- . **Nectar flow** Often incorrectly called 'honey flow'. Nectar flow is the gathering of nectar from the flowers which worker bees convert to honey and store in cells.
- . **Nosema** An intestinal disorder of adult honeybees caused by the microsporidian of the genus *Nosema*. Two species of *Nosema* have been identified in honey bees in Canada, *N. apis* and *N. ceranae*.
- . **Oxytet** Trade name for antibiotic animal formulation, *oxytetracycline hydrochloride*, used in the control of bacterial bee brood diseases.
- . **Oxytetracycline** Antibiotic registered in Canada for the control of brood diseases. Sold under different trade names, including Oxytet, Terramycin, etc.
- . **Pollen** A protein food gathered by worker bees from the anthers of flowers. Pollen provides minerals, fats and vitamins and is consumed by young nurse bees and converted into brood food and "royal jelly".
- . **Propolis** Resins and gums gathered from trees and used to seal cracks, repair cells, etc.
- . **Sacbrood** Bee brood disease caused by viruses.
- . **Small Hive Beetle** The larval stages of *Aethina tumida* tunnel through brood comb and feed on bee brood, honey and pollen. The beetle can also be a

- problem in honey houses when comb and cappings are exposed. The beetle is not a serious pest in Canada.
- . **Smoker** Cylindrical burner attached to a hand-held bellows producing smoke to control bees and reduce defensive behaviour.
 - . **Supers** Hive boxes with or without frames.
 - . **Supersedure** Replacement of the existing queen by a young queen produced by the bees within the colony from their own larvae or eggs.
 - . **Swarming** The natural process of a colony to multiply through the departure of a part of the bee population with a queen and some drones, who in turn will establish a new nest.
 - . **Terramycin** Discontinued trade name by Pfizer Inc. of the antibiotic *oxytetracycline hydrochloride*, used to control bacterial bee brood diseases. Same product formulation is currently available under the trade name Oxytet and marketed by Medivet Pharmaceuticals of Alberta.
 - . **Tracheal Mite** see Acarine (disease).
 - . **Uncapping** The process of removing the waxed cappings from cells containing honey.
 - . **Varroa** A mite parasitizing bee brood and adult bees, called *Varroa jacobsoni*.
 - . **Viruses** There are many different viruses affecting honey bees. In B.C., several viruses have been identified, including Kashmir Bee Virus (KBV), Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV) and Varroa Destructor Virus (VDV). It is believed that other viruses are endemically present in the bee population, including Chronic Paralysis Virus (CPV), Acute Bee Paralysis Virus (ABPV) and Black Queen Cell Virus (BQCV). The impact these viruses have on honey bee colonies is not clearly understood but it is believed that they act in the presence of other bee diseases, especially parasitic mites.