



European Association for Bee Research

Newsletter Number 4

February 2007

<http://www.eurbee.org>

This newsletter aims at giving information about existing research networks and institutions, possible collaborations, forthcoming meetings and other news that can facilitate cooperation in research on bees.

Contributions are welcome and should be addressed to:
r.paxton@qub.ac.uk

Details about membership should be addressed to:
dorothea.brueckner@uni-bremen.de

Membership fees were included in the conference fee to the 2nd EurBee Conference in Prague, 11-14 September 2006. If you attended the Prague meeting, you have paid automatically for membership of EurBee until the next 2008 meeting (i.e. you paid for two years).

For those not attending the conference, payment by bank transfer (only) can be made to:

account number: 0805108303
at the Postbank Hannover (German bank code: 250 100 30)
BIC: PB NK DE FF
IBAN: DE83 2501 0030 0805 1083 03
name: Dorothea Brückner/Eurbee

The annual fee is euro 10.

We kindly ask Members of EurBee **to make EurBee more widely known within their country**, especially where only few researchers from a country have had the opportunity to attend the Conference in Prague in September 2006.

In this issue:

1. Report on the 2nd EurBee Conference in Prague, 11-14 September 2006, by Prof. Dorothea Brückner
2. Prof John B Free
3. Prof Norberto Milani
4. Working Group: 'Prevention of Bee Losses in Europe'
5. EU-funded bee research project: BeeShop
6. EU-funded bee research project: ALARM – request for help
7. German AG Bee Conference, March 2007 (auf Deutsch)
8. European Bee Conference in Finland, 10th –14th June 2007
9. IBRA and the Journal of Apicultural Research
10. Apidologie
11. EurBee 2008 - Avignon
12. PhD position in honey bee pathology (co-evolution between bees and their viruses)

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1. Report on the 2nd EurBee Conference in Prague, 11-14 September 2006, by Prof. Dorothea Brückner

The second International Conference of Apidology, organized by the EURBEE ASSOCIATION (with Dalibor Titera as local organizer), was held in Prague, with the Hotel Pyramida as the congress venue. Over 300 participants from almost all European nations (26 countries) and from 8 countries of all 4 other continents experienced an informative and vivid conference. In total, 95 oral communications and 170 posters were presented from 539 different authors. In addition, 31 new members joined the EURBEE ASSOCIATION in Prague. The conference participants heard a diversity of well presented main talks and interesting symposia. The suitability of the congress centre and presence of so many participants meant that the 2nd International Conference was an ideal occasion to stage numerous satellite meetings during the evenings and on the day after the conference. For example, the autumn conference of the EU-6FP Project BeeShop and the annual meeting of IHC (International Honey Commission) took place during or soon after the 2nd International Conference.

The membership meeting of the EURBEE ASSOCIATION was also held at the 2nd

International Conference, on Tuesday 12th September in the main lecture hall. The board of the EURBEE ASSOCIATION is composed of Robert Paxton from Belfast, Northern Ireland, Bernhard Vaissiere from Avignon, France, Dalibor Titera from Dol, the Czech Republic and Dorothea Brückner from Bremen, Germany. First Robert Paxton presented a summary of the past activities of the EURBEE ASSOCIATION since its first Congress in Udine in September 2004. Secondly, Eurbee members voted for Avignon as the next congress site. Bernhard Vaissiere (INRA, Avignon) agreed to be the local organizer for this, the 3rd International Eurbee congress in the year 2008. The exact date was not decided upon, but it will be held in August or early September 2008. Details will follow in the next NEWSLETTER.

The opinion of many participants of the Prague conference might be summarized as follows. The international EURBEE conference offered many chances to meet scientist from other European nations and to exchange ideas on bee research (*Apis* and non-*Apis* bees). The conference also offered the possibility to organize workshops and round table discussions on recent developments aside from the formal programme organized by the EURBEE scientific committee. The conference also gave important information on large EU financed grants and on how to apply for new such grants. It offered opportunities for informal gatherings in and around the congress site. Finally, there also was a gala evening and traditional dinner organized by the local organizers in Prague. Thanks to Dalibor Titera and all other local organizers as well as Ingemar Fries and the band of other scientific organizers for such a splendid congress.

The main sponsor of this conference was the firm Olympus, producer of cameras and microscopes. Valuable support also came from the Bee Research Institute Dol, the Czech Beekeepers Union and many others. The city of Prague presented itself in a most pleasant way to the congress participants, with sunshine all day long. There were many positive comments made by the participants on the importance of the new EURBEE ASSOCIATION and its activities. May the Association keep growing into a stable NETWORK of BEE RESEARCHERS all over EUROPE that offers international contact and successful future cooperation resulting from this exchange.

Bremen, 18.January 2007

2. Prof John B Free

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Prof. John B. Free at the end of 2006. As an internationally acclaimed scientist and a doyen of bee research, he will be much missed.

3. Prof Norberto Milani

From the apidologists at Udine, Italy

On the 10th September 2006, Norberto Milani, from Udine, Italy, former President of the European Association for Bee Research, had a mountain accident the day before leaving for Prague, where he planned to attend the 2nd Eurbee conference. He suffered a severe head trauma. He was transferred by helicopter to hospital and kept under intensive care. Recently he has been transferred to a specialized clinic for the treatment of people

suffering brain injuries. Thanks to his strength and the vicinity of many friends, he has started a slow, gradual recovery which we hope will continue and produce effective results.

From the EurBee Association Board

It is with great sorrow and grief we have learned from Professor Frilli that our long-time colleague and valued friend Professor Norberto Milani from the Dipartimento di Biologia applicata alla difesa delle piante, Università degli Studi di Udine, Italy, has received damages from his accident in August 2006, that are likely to incapacitate him for some time to come.

Professor Milani was an extraordinary asset to European honey bee research. His meticulous researches on honey bee biology and pathology, published in the best international journals, have established him as one of the most prominent scientists in his field world-wide. His profound insights in his topics of research are unsurpassed as his academic merits also include deep knowledge in the foundations for natural sciences, such as mathematics and physics. The collaborative and generous attitude that always was part of professor Milani's collaborations with other scientists has furthermore established him as a central point for European research on honey bees. From this position, it was only natural that Professor Milani in 2004 was one of the initiators of the now so successful EurBee Association, set up to promote scientific collaboration and the international exchange of ideas.

With this letter, we wish to express our gratitude to Professor Milani for his long-lasting scientific contributions and for his exceptional loyalty to science in general and to all colleagues that have had the privilege to collaborate with him in particular. We also wish to thank the University of Udine and the Dipartimento di biologia applicata alla difesa delle piante in particular for making these collaborations possible. We have all benefited greatly, and hope to do so again in the future.

To give emphasis to the contributions of Professor Milani, we suggest that a stipend in his name be instigated by the EurBee Association, awarding a prize to the best student contribution at each forthcoming biannual Eurbee conference.

4. Working Group: 'Prevention of Bee Losses in Europe'

The 10th meeting of the European Group for the Integrated Varroa Control took place in Prague, on 11th September 2006, during the second EURBEE conference. On that occasion, the members realised that the long and fruitful collaboration had allowed us to achieve most of the originally set goals. This supported the decision to enlarge the research objectives and it was decided to cease the old varroa group as it was in favour of a new and wider collaboration, which resulted in the Working Group 'Prevention of Bee Losses in Europe' being set up.

The membership of new group includes most of the previous members, but also includes researchers from areas beyond honey bee pathology. In fact, the group aims to take into consideration the seemingly increasing problem of honey bee colony mortality which encompasses a multifactorial approach, not only involving pests and diseases but also the problematic relationship that honey bees often experience with agriculture and with the environment in general. The first meeting of the Working Group 'Prevention of Bee

Losses in Europe' is scheduled for 5th-6th March, 2007, to be held in Wageningen, The Netherlands. There the internal organisation of the group itself will be decided, taking into account the presently fixed priority actions:

- to obtain a picture of honey bee losses in Europe (how bad the situation is, trends over the time, geographical distribution),
- to set a protocol for monitoring of honey bee losses (establish the minimum requirements, factors to be monitored, method for monitoring, how to define a healthy colony),
- to answers specific questions arising (research on diseases and on environmental factors affecting colony losses, research on integrated control techniques),
- to provide recommendations to prevent honey bee losses.

According to the decisions taken at Prague, a steering committee has been created: Antonio Nanetti, co-ordinator, Lonne Gerritsen, secretary, Marie-Pierre Chauzat and Peter Rosenkranz, all contributing from their great experience on their areas of interest. Upon the time this note is being drafted (2nd February, 2007), the working group is made up of about fifty members, representing seventeen European and two non-European countries. Each of them will be contributing to the body of knowledge that the group will hopefully attain, with direct involvement in the monitoring activity, in the research or maybe in both.

Antonio Nanetti (ananetti@inapicoltura.org)

For more informing about the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group: 'Prevention of Bee Losses in Europe', contact Antonio Nanetti or Lonne Gerritsen (lonne.gerritsen@wur.nl)

5. EU-funded bee research project: BeeShop

The acronym Bee Shop derives from: Bees in Europe and Sustainable Honey Production. More details on this current EU-funded FP6 project can be found at:

http://www2.biologie.uni-halle.de/zool/mol_ecol/research_f.html

Bee Shop research project partners are:

Robin Moritz, Halle (co-ordinator)
Ingemar Fries, Uppsala
Robert Paxton, Belfast
Martin Giurfa, Toulouse
Michel Solignac, Paris
Francisco Tomás-Barberán, Murcia
Peter Rosenkranz, Hohenheim
Jozef Simuth, Bratislava
Anna-Gloria Sabatini, Bologna
Dalibor Titera, Dol



6. EU-funded bee research project: ALARM – request for help

The acronym ALARM derives from: Assessing Large scale Risks for biodiversity with tested Methods. More details on this current EU-funded FP6 project can be found at:

<http://www.alarmproject.net>

Please see the last page for a request for help (my limited computer literacy does not allow me to inset the details here)

7. German AG Bee Conference, March 2007 (conference in German, as are the details below)

Einladung zur 54. Jahrestagung der Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Institute für Bienenforschung in Veitshöchheim vom 27. – 29. März 2007

Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen,

Sie sind sehr herzlich zur bevorstehenden 54. Jahrestagung der Arbeitsgemeinschaft eingeladen. Gastgeber ist die Bayerische Landesanstalt für Weinbau und Gartenbau, Fachzentrum Bienen, in Zusammenarbeit mit der „beegroup“ der Universität Würzburg. Das Fachzentrum Bienen, hervorgegangen aus der Bayerischen Landesanstalt für Bienenzucht in Erlangen, feiert in diesem Jahr ihren 100. Geburtstag. Daran soll zu Beginn der Tagung mit einem kleinen Festakt und anschließendem Empfang erinnert werden.

Beginn der AG-Tagung ist am Dienstag, 27. März um 12³⁰, das Ende am Donnerstag, 29. März gegen 15⁰⁰. Es wird auch dieses Jahr ein **Hauptreferat** geben. Aufgrund einer kurzfristigen Absage können wir Ihnen Referent und Thema erst im Januar mitteilen.

Die **Mitgliederversammlung** ist für Dienstag, 27. März 2007 im Anschluss an die Vorträge geplant. Anträge bitte bis **09. Februar 2007** einreichen.

Am Mittwoch 28. März nachmittags ist ein Ausflug geplant. Danach findet gegen 19 Uhr im historischen Hofkeller der Residenz in Würzburg eine Weinprobe mit Abendessen statt.

Anmeldung zur AG-Tagung / Anmeldung von Postern und Referaten:

Bitte senden Sie Ihre verbindliche Anmeldung spätestens bis **Freitag, den 09. Februar 2007** per **Email an elvira.frick@lwg.bayern.de**. Falls Sie ein Poster (max. 100cm breit und 140cm hoch) oder Kurzreferat (max. 15 Minuten + 5 Minuten Diskussion) präsentieren möchten, sind zusätzlich folgende Angaben notwendig:

- Autor(en) mit Anmerkung, ob es sich um einen studentischen Beitrag handelt (die besten studentischen Beiträge werden mit dem Evenius-Preis ausgezeichnet)
Vortragender bitte mit ausgeschriebenen Vornamen bzw. unterstrichen!
- Kurzbezeichnung von Einrichtung und Stadt
- Themengruppe (vgl. Programme früherer Tagungen)
- Titel
- Bitte angeben, welche Präsentationstechnik gewünscht wird.

Es wird ausreichend Zeit für eine angemessene Posterpräsentation geben!

Abstracts:

Die Kurzfassungen sollen wieder in der Apidologie veröffentlicht werden. Die entsprechenden Anweisungen hierzu finden Sie auf unserer homepage, die ab Januar 2007 auch weitere Angaben und Aktualisierungen zur Tagung enthält:

<http://www.ag-bienenforschung.de/>

Hier finden Sie auch weitere Informationen zum Tagungszentrum und das **Formular für die Zimmerreservierung und Anmeldung zur Tagung.**

Das AG-Tagungsprogramm wird Ihnen Anfang März 2006 zugehen und zusätzlich auf unserer AG-homepage veröffentlicht werden.

Bitte geben Sie die Informationen an Ihre Mitarbeiter sowie Kolleginnen und Kollegen weiter!

Für die Unterbringung haben wir in drei Hotels entsprechende Vorreservierungen bis zum 16. Februar vorgenommen. Bitte die Zimmerreservierungen selbst vornehmen. Die Anschriften der Unterkünfte sind:

Hotel am Main, www.hotel-am-main.de (für Bahnreisende geeignet)

Unter Maingasse 35, , Tel. 0931 / 9804-121

17 Doppelzimmer (80 €), 17 EZ (55 €)

(Fußweg 10 Minuten zum Tagungsort)

Weißes Lamm, www.weisses-lamm.de (für Bahnreisende geeignet)

Kirchstraße 24, 9802-499

40 EZ (59 €)

(Fußweg 10 Minuten zum Tagungsort)

St. Markushof, www.bbw-wuerzburg.de (PKW erforderlich)

Gadheim 19, 97209 Veitshöchheim, Tel. 0931 / 460890

22 DZ (50 €), 11 EZ (50 €)

(Autofahrt 10 Minuten zum Tagungsort)

Das Tagungsprogramm wird Ihnen Ende Februar zugehen und zusätzlich auf unserer AG-homepage veröffentlicht werden.

8. European Bee Conference in Finland, 10th –14th June 2007

Dr. Kamran Fakhimzadeh (Ruralia Institute, University of Helsinki) and IBRA organise an **'International Conference on Recent Trends in Apicultural Science'** from 10-14 June 2007 at Mikkeli, Finland. Entitled **'Bees under the Midnight Sun'**, more details can be found at:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/ruralia/mikkeli/beesunder/>

Register before 28th February for reduced rates of conference fees.

9. IBRA and the Journal of Apicultural Research

The new improved ***Journal of Apicultural Research***

For just €65 per year individual membership of IBRA brings you:

- Four hard copy issues (March, June, September, December) of our international prize winning Journal of Apicultural Research. In 2006 this renowned journal combined with Bee World and became bigger and even better with increased citation ratings and world acclaim.
- There is no other journal that offers so much at such a low price per year.
- In addition to the hard copy you get online access to the current journal AND past journals for a 10-year period.
- You also become part of IBRA – still the world's biggest single network of bee scientists!

It is fantastic value for money but that value can only be maintained if IBRA is supported by the apicultural scientists around the world.



All details and the methods of payment can be found on the IBRA web site.

For more information and a FREE sample, contact IBRA

Tel: 00 44 2920 372409

Email: info@ibra.org.uk

Or just visit the web site and see a sample of the journal and much more:

www.ibra.org.uk

10. Apidologie

All EurBee members obtain a discount on their subscription to the journal *Apidologie*, which the EURBEE ASSOCIATION has taken as its official organ of scientific communication. If you are a EurBee member and wish to take out a personal subscription to the journal, contact the EurBee secretary Prof. Dorothea Brückner (dorothea.brueckner@uni-bremen.de).

The *Apidologie* web page is at: <http://www.edpsciences.org/apido>

11. EurBee 2008 – Avignon

As reported above (point 1), the next EurBee conference will be held in August-September 2008 in Avignon, France. More details will be in the next Newsletter.

12. PhD position in molecular evolution (host-parasite coevolution using pathogens of honey bees).

A full-time PhD position is available immediately to work on the molecular evolution of pathogens of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in the labs of Dr. Robert Paxton/Dr Joachim de Miranda (www.qub.ac.uk/bb/people/paxton/paxton.html) and Prof. Ingemar Fries (www.entom.slu.se/eng/staff/Ingemar_Fries.htm). Arguably the major threats to honeybees and beekeeping worldwide are their debilitating pathogens, particularly viruses that are transmitted by parasitic Varroa mites. The doctoral research will form part of a larger European project on the genetics and evolution of disease resistance in honey bees (acronym BeeShop, see www2.biologie.uni-halle.de/zool/mol_ecol/research_f.html). Laboratory work for the advertised PhD position will be based with Dr. Paxton in Belfast (UK), where the student will be registered, and fieldwork will be with Prof. Fries in Uppsala (Sweden). Applicants should have a background in virology or evolution (theory/molecular genetic laboratory experience/experience in tissue culture) and be willing to work with honey bees, in addition to a good BSc and/or MSc in a relevant field of biology. Proficiency in English is a necessity. The position will be fully funded for 3 years (including fees and stipend). We particularly encourage applications from citizens of the new accession states to the European Union and from females. If interested, please send by 16 February 2007 (i) a cv with the names and contact details of two referees and (ii) a cover letter explaining your interests and motivation for the position to: joachimd Miranda@yahoo.com from whom further details can be obtained.

A great expression of thanks again goes to those EurBee members and others who contributed material to this newsletter.

EurBee Board members: Dorothea Brückner, Bremen (secretary); Robert Paxton, Belfast (newsletter); Bernard Vaissiere, Avignon; Dalibor Titera Dol; Ingemar Fries (co-opted member and coordinator of the scientific programme of EurBee's Prague conference).

The ALARM request for help is on the next, final page.