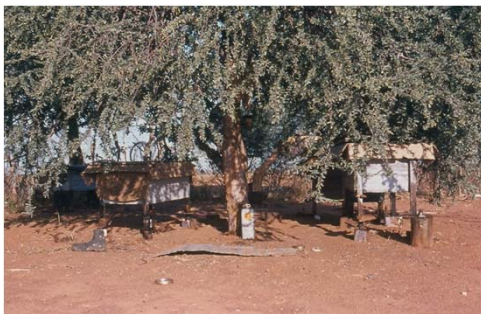


Predators of bees in Southern Africa

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Bee pirates



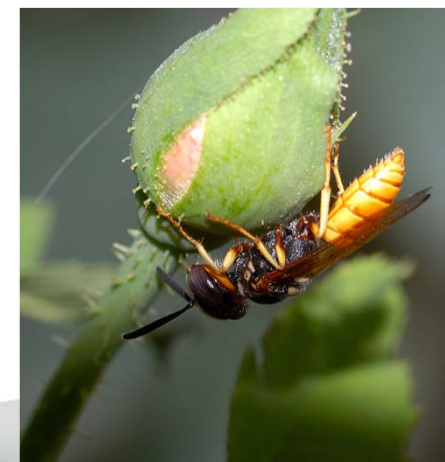
- *Palarus latifrons* – banded bee pirate; predatory wasp; mostly at nest entrances; mostly in summer; sometimes hundreds of wasps; can severely damage colonies; maybe prey on virgin queens?
- Much less in recent years – why?
- Can completely decimate colonies
- Only really in sandy, dry areas
- Best treatment is to move bees away, or to lure the bee pirates into water traps with mirrors; shade; boxes out of the sun; foliage around hives



Bee Wolves?



- *Philanthus triangulum* – bee wolf; Yellow bee pirate; mostly on flowers
- Prey on foraging bees
- Seems not to be too destructive
- Also mostly in sandy, dry areas
- No control known





European wasps

- Yellow jacket *Vespula germanica*; present in the Cape for almost 40 years; huge nests; now spreading; does predate on bees, in and out of the hive; but no real damage seen
- *Polistes dominulus*; found in the Cape in 2009 and spreading rapidly; no records of predation on bees





Birds



- Some species are a problem; stop bees foraging; mostly temporary
- Mostly some bee-eaters, Alpine swifts, and Fork-tailed drongo
- No ethical control methods known; can use bird-lime, sticky perches, guns; best to put colonies in bushes to limit the effect of the birds



Mice & Toads

- Sometimes get into hives
- Minor nuisance
- Make a mess and eat honey and pollen
- Keep entrances small to keep them out



Baboons



- Are a problem in some areas
- Simple to limit damage; strap hives to keep them out





Badgers



- Honey badgers can be a nightmare; many parts of Africa
- Especially near areas of natural vegetation; mostly at times when little other food is available
- Can totally destroy apiaries
- Mostly done by patrolling males





Badgers



- Has resulting in beekeepers killing badgers with gin-traps and other methods; now largely stopped due to consumer pressure
- Protect hives with stands (1.2 m above ground), straps or fastening to the ground
- Or hang bee colonies in trees





Ants



- Ants can be a terrible problem
- Many types are problems; Argentine ant, Pugnacious ant, driver ants and more
- Poisoning is not a good solution
- Better to keep the ants out of the hives; get the hives off the ground and use an ant barrier like Plantex
- Or hang the hives in trees





People



- Humans almost always the worst problems
- Theft & vandalism
- Fires; keep all apiaries sites clean and free of vegetation
- Many control measures, mostly not legal
- Keep defensive bees

