

Are OIE bee disease recommendations appropriate for Southern Africa?

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A review



- Don't want to be overly negative
- But do have some concerns
- Things that I think Africa needs to address in terms of bees; things outside OIE recommendations
- Hope that there can be synthesis
- And so, a review

OIE Mandate & TAHC

- Mandate – ‘Good governance for improving animal health’
- Code – ‘To assure the sanitary safety of international trade and control of animal disease’
- Want to suggest that these two mandates are not entirely consistent; and that control can mean different things



For Bees



- Notifiable diseases
- Surveillance of disease/infection
- Risk analysis
- Management procedures
- Testing procedures
- 'Disease-free' zones for trade

Differences

EUROPE	AFRICA
Mostly domestic	Mostly wild
Beekeepers known	Beekeepers
Bees largely sick	Bees largely fine
Regulations	Mostly not
Inspection capacity	Mostly not
Laboratory capacity	Mostly not
Border controls	Mostly not
Movable frames	Mostly not

OIE recommendations are difficult, if not impossible

- Supposed to have knowledge of all apiaries & beekeeping!
- For AFB (and maybe later, for Nosema and viruses), supposed to have no wild bees – ‘no self-sustaining wild population’
- Requires infrastructure for surveillance, inspection, analysis and border control



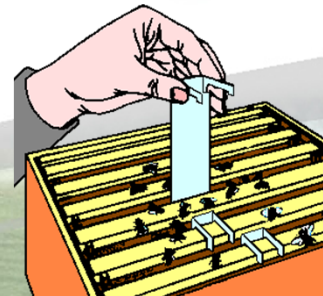
OIE recommendations are difficult, if not impossible for Africa

- Requires movable frames for proper inspection and surveillance
- Requires bees that are not going to migrate hundreds of kms
- Can't do anything to treat / control in the wild population



OIE recommendations could be dangerous for Africa's bees

- Africa presently does not have major bee disease problems
- Because of high genetic diversity & lack of treatments & natural selection
- Because bees live with pests and diseases, rather than trying to eradicate or control them
- If new bees or breeding in Africa, will lose the diversity
- If treatments for disease control or disease free areas, could lose natural tolerance
- Could lose quality of African bee products



Are OIE recommendations really necessary for Africa?

- No-one wants to import African bees; nor should they be allowed to
- Don't change African beekeeping because some crazy European beekeeper wants to import them. Prohibit it.
- So, it should just be about bee products – about AFB and viruses and residues.
- And Africa has almost none of that
- So, what is the threat?



Honey Bee Losses
in Canada (2010)



For Africa



- Want to retain wild bees & diversity
- Natural tolerance is the **ONLY** choice
- Disease eradication does not work with bees (anywhere!) and will weaken our bees
- OIE recommendations are for beekeepers and consumers, and not the bees



Lots to do with the OIE

- Work to build capacity – regulations, inspection, analysis
- Training and knowledge of beekeepers
- Institute surveillance and monitoring – for pests and residues
- Have sentinel sites and canary apiaries
- Work with OIE to keep bee risks out of Africa
- As the only place with really healthy bees, should really be an African representative on OIE bee disease panel



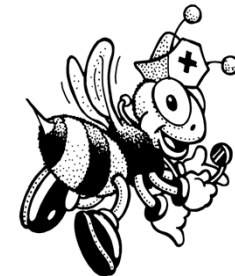
Lots for Africa to do for itself

- Regional co-operation; Africa is one country for bees
- *An African Bee Journal?*
- Stop the importation of bees; no need and huge risk
- High vigilance for other *Apis* species; and other threats



Lots for Africa to do for itself

- Rigorous control of imported bee products – Africa is at risk from the world, and not the other way around
- Improve regulations /border controls / inspection and laboratory capacity
- Need knowledge!! About our local bees; about migration and movement of bees; about what pests and diseases and risks they have



OIE Mandate & TAHC

- Mandate – ‘Good governance for improving animal health’
- Code – ‘To assure the sanitary safety of international trade and control of animal disease’
- Most important for Africa to maintain the health of our bees – even if it makes trade more difficult