Annual Report for 2020 to the New Brunswick Beekeepers Association Inc. - Annual General Meeting

Moncton, NB, 24-27 March 2021 (A Zoom meeting)

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NB beekeepers and colonies: 2020

	Total	Commercial	Hobby
Beekeepers	**450**	33 (7%)	417 (93%)
Colonies	**11,557**	9,501 (82%)	2,056 (18%)

Commercial beekeeper for NB: 50 or more colonies

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Honey production *

* How I calculate honey production: I calculate the average honey production from colonies producing surplus honey and I do not include colonies making 30% or less of the average. This prevents an artificially low average.

	Average yield / colony * (* only honey producing colonies: 4,307 colonies)	**Total yield**
Honey	18.56 Kgs (40.9 Lbs)	80,000 Kgs (176,300 Lbs)

- Honey production: lower than average in most areas due to drought. Some areas had near average honey crop.

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New Brunswick honey bee importation summary 2020

Colonies imported for wild blueberry pollination (ON)	Colonies imported for purchase (PEI)	Queens imported (SK)	Queens imported (AB)	Queens imported (ON)	Colonies (moved from QC)
26,811	946	22	80	30	1

- **Renting or purchasing honey bees from other provinces / territories from within Canada:**

  AN IMPORT PERMIT IS REQUIRED from NB

- **Bees imported from other Countries require a federal permit.**

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Honey and pollination survey in New Brunswick 2020

Honey sold for bulk sales	66,706 lbs
Average price per bulk	$2.23
Honey for retail sales	68,067 lbs
Average price per retail	$5.86
Colonies rented for pollination *	9,443 [A]
Average rental price per colony	$149.00
Revenue for pollination of all crops	$1,407,007.00 [A]

Comments: The honey sold for retail and bulk is less than the total honey because it does not include honey production from approximately 10% of the beekeepers who are hobby beekeepers. Also, beekeepers may not sell all of their honey in the same year it is produced. The first pollination is wild blueberry. Revenue for pollination includes revenue from a second pollination, which may be mostly wild blueberry or cranberry.

- * (e.g.) A colony rented twice is calculated as two colonies.
- [A] Respondents and this number represented 83% of the colonies in the survey.

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Honey bee winter loss survey 2019 - 2020

- Full report: Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) web site
- http://www.capabees.com/
- Annual Colony Loss Reports
- NB surveyed: beekeepers with 50 or more colonies; 18/35 (51%) responded.

Colony Winter Loss 2019 - 2020

	Fall 2019	% winter loss	% winter loss indoors	% winter loss outdoors	Spring 2020 (estimated)
NB	10,198	**24.9**	26.6	25.8	7,663
National average		30.2	33.4	28.9	

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Winter loss comments for 2019-2020

- **Wide range in rates of winter losses**
- Respondents had 90% of colonies in NB
- Average winter loss was 24.9%
- 44% of respondents had losses below 12.5%
- 1/3 of respondents had losses over 30%
- **It was not possible to determine the main cause of winter losses**
- NB had an unusually long and cold spring. Honey bee losses also occurred after May 15 (response deadline). (Deadline was extended due to covid.)

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Varroa monitoring in NB in 2019

Beekeepers screening for varroa mites		Varroa control: treatment and methods (in order from most to least commonly used)			
		Spring 2019		Summer / Fall 2019	
Sticky boards (%)	Alcohol wash (%)	% of beekeepers	Methods of treatment	% of beekeepers	Methods of treatment
17	28	44	Apivar ®, Oxalic acid, liquid Formic acid	94	Apivar ®, Oxalic acid, liquid Formic acid

Apivar ® continues to be the most common control for Varroa in NB.

CAPA winter loss survey 2019-2020

Excerpt from “Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists Statement on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2020)”.

“Once again, these surveys show that Apivar® is one of the most commonly used miticides for treating varroa in Canada. Because of the repeated use of Apivar®, it is only a matter of time before the development of resistance to this miticide. Preliminary findings of decreased efficacy have been observed in some provinces. It is becoming increasingly important that beekeepers become aware of the principles associated with resistance development and the importance of monitoring the efficacy of all treatments, in particular Apivar®. This will help to mitigate abrupt and widespread failures of treatments.”

Refer to the CAPA web site for the full report.

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American foulbrood antibiotic resistance tests: 2020

- No samples received in 2020.

Small hive beetle (SHB) reports for 2020

Date SHB received (2020)	County	SHB samples Adults (A); Larvae (L)	Date considered resolved (2020)	Comments
8 May	**Northumberland** (2 apiaries)	2 A; 2 L	31 August	Apiaries had also been infested in 2019. SHB was found before colonies were imported for pollination. SHB not found since May.
5 July	**Northumberland** (Different beekeeper from the 8 May report.)	1 A	27 July	Colonies had been near Ontario colonies.
16 July	**Restigouche**	1 A	24 Sept	Colonies had been near Ontario colonies in the previous year.

SHB was monitored with one or more of: Beetle Bee-Gone cloths; Better Beetle Blaster trap; pollen patty.

Date resolved was the date the beekeeper was contacted to confirm that there had not been any more SHB found for an extended period of time.

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GNB Bees web page – update

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/agriculture/content/bees.html

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/fr/ministeres/10/agriculture/content/abeilles.html

Pest Information

- Traps used for Monitoring the Small Hive Beetle in New Brunswick Honey Bee Colonies – **NEW 2021**
- Antibiotics for honey bees must be obtained from veterinarians – **Assigned Veterinarian list: UPDATED March 2021**
- Small Hive Beetle

Information sur les parasites

- Pièges servant à la surveillance du petit coléoptère des ruches dans les colonies d'abeilles domestiques au Nouveau-Brunswick – **NOUVEAU, 2021**
- Les antibiotiques pour les abeilles doivent être obtenus auprès des vétérinaires – **Liste des vétérinaires assignés: MISE À JOUR en Mars 2021**
- Le petit coléoptère des ruches

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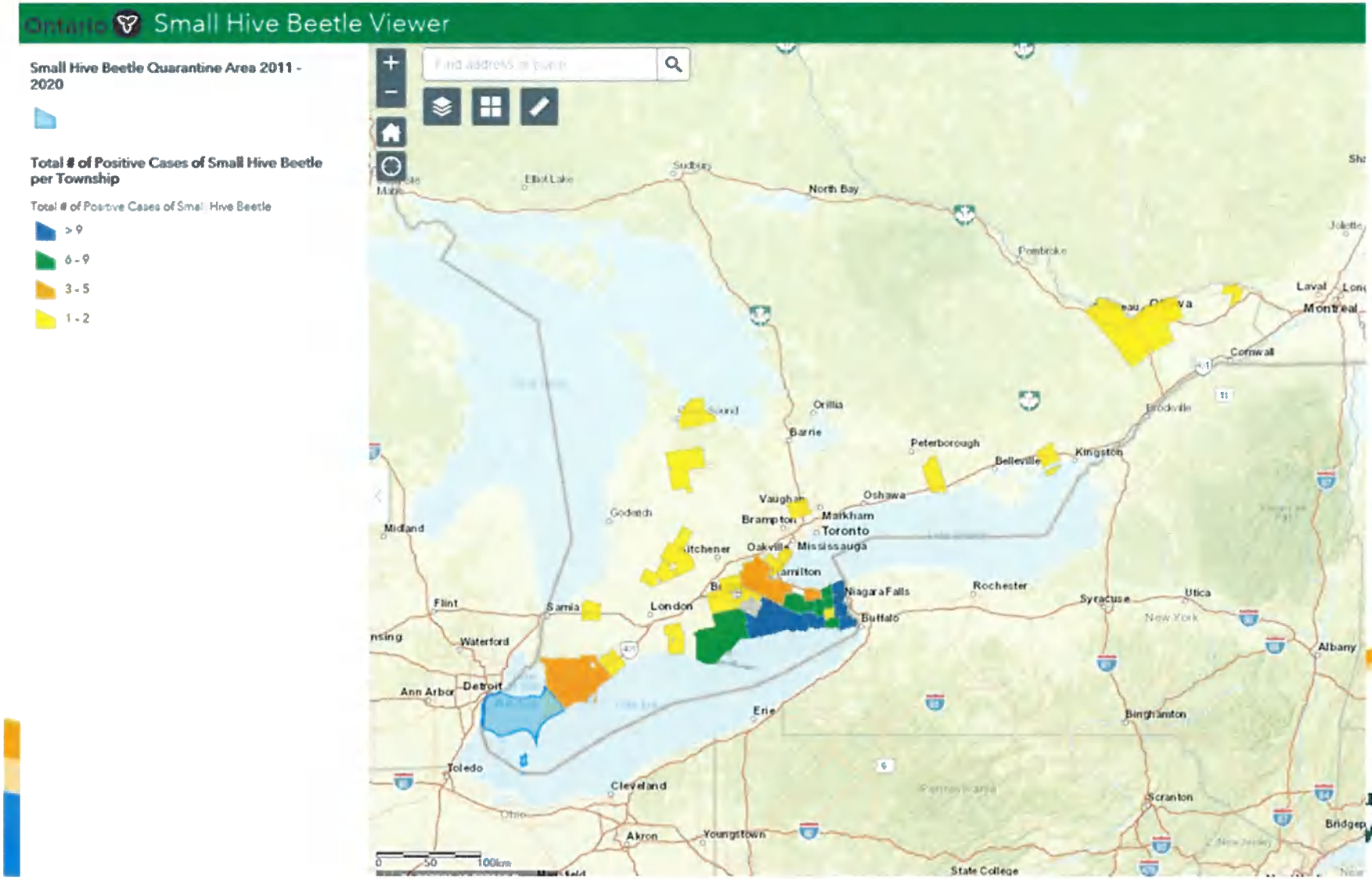
Small hive beetle (SHB) reports in Ontario (March 2021): SHB has expanded its range in Ontario to eastern Ontario.



Information from Perennia web site

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SMALL HIVE BEETLE

Learn how to spot it and what to do if you find it.

Small hive beetle (SHB), *Aethina tumida* Murray, is an invasive pest of western honey bees (*Apis mellifera* Linnaeus) that originated from Sub-Saharan Africa and has since established a breeding population in the Niagara Region of Ontario. Hives from Ontario may be imported to Maritime Provinces in the spring for pollination of crops such as lowbush blueberry. Due to the potential for SHB entry, either by flight or movement of hives, it is important that beekeepers at all levels of experience be able to identify SHB and report suspicious findings to their Provincial Apiculturist.

WHAT DOES SHB LOOK LIKE?

Eggs are small (1.5 mm long), white and visible. However, SHB is more likely to be detected in its adult or larval form.

WHAT DOES SHB DAMAGE LOOK LIKE?

The most considerable damage performed by SHB occurs during their larval stage. Larvae consume virtually every edible substance in the hive except for the wooden hive-ware itself. A large infestation of SHB will cause significant damage to brood, comb, pollen, and honey. Excrement defecated by feeding larvae causes honey to ferment and no longer be suitable for human or bee consumption. Frames that have been removed from active colonies are also at risk of SHB damage. Entire seasons' worth of honey in extraction lines can be spoiled and valuable frames of empty wax

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PETIT COLÉOPTÈRE DE LA RUCHE

Apprendre à le reconnaître et quoi faire s'il se retrouve dans votre rucher

Le petit coléoptère de la ruche (PCR), *Aethina tumida* Murray, est un insecte parasite de l'abeille mellifère (*Apis mellifera* Linnaeus) qui est originaire de l'Afrique subsaharienne et qui se retrouve maintenant dans la région de Niagara en Ontario. Des ruches de cette région sont importées dans les provinces Maritimes au printemps pour la pollinisation des cultures comme les bleuets sauvages par exemple. Étant donné le potentiel d'introduction du PCR, soit en volant ou par le déplacement des ruches, il est important que tous les propriétaires d'abeilles soient en mesure de le reconnaître et de reporter sa présence à leur inspecteur apicole provincial.

DESCRIPTION DU PCR

Les œufs du petit coléoptère de la ruche sont de couleur blanche et mesurent environ 1.5 mm de longueur. Il est cependant plus probable d'identifier le PCR à l'état larvaire ou adulte.

DOMMAGES CAUSÉS PAR LE PCR

Les principaux dommages causés par le petit coléoptère de la ruche se produisent à son stade larvaire. Les larves consomment pratiquement tout ce qui est comestible dans la ruche à l'exception de la structure externe en bois. Une infestation de PCR causera des dommages considérables au couvain, aux rayons, au pollen et au

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What to do if you think you found the small hive beetle.

- You are required to report it to the NB Provincial Apiarist.
- Sample: freeze, label (date, name of collector, location), identify the suspected hive.
- Contact the NB Provincial Apiarist or Fletcher Colpitts or Michel Melanson.
- All personal information is confidential.

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Thank you

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