

New swarm lure

Many beekeepers have a love-hate relationship with swarming, but Vita's new Swarm Attractant Wipe is receiving a warm welcome.

Looking like a cleansing tissue, the swarm attractant comes in a small sachet. It is impregnated with essential oils extracted from plants which are released when the sachet is pierced or torn open. To attract swarms, hang it or wipe it over the surface of an empty hive, skep or other suitable container. You can even try hanging it on a branch in the apiary to try to attract a swarm to a convenient place.



Dr Max Watkins, Technical Director of Vita (Europe), said: "This new swarm attractant is proving very popular and will be a very useful tool for beekeepers. It can help prevent swarms from leaving an apiary and it can be used to lure swarms that have already landed in an awkward place."



Swarm entering skep containing the Vita Swarm Attractant

Recent tests have shown that when the Vita Swarm Attractant was placed in five of ten hives in an apiary, four of the hives with the lure attracted a swarm within two days and further swarms soon after. The other hives remained empty. The test hives were just a few metres from other colonies in the apiary, showing that hives with the attractant can lure swarms in the same apiary – something that normal baited hives usually fail to do.

The swarm attractant will keep for about two years in a fridge. Once opened it will be effective for up to 10 days, but this is depending upon the ambient temperatures.

Vita at Apimondia 2011 Stand B39



Vita Photo Gallery Sign up for free

With more than 1000 registered users, Vita's Photo Gallery is proving very popular with beekeepers looking for images to include in their public talks and with beginners wanting to see the many facets of beekeeping and honeybees.

Just log on to www.vita-europe.com and register for free.



These Vita Gallery Photos courtesy of P Perry, Duncan Parks, Franc Sivic, & Hampshire Beekeepers Association.

Vita's new website
www.vita-europe.com

Also on Twitter & Facebook



@vitaeuropeltd



Vita Europe Ltd

Apiguard in sachets

Apiguard is now available in the USA in handy 25g sachets.

The sachets are especially suitable for small colonies and nuclei and for full-size hives in hotter climates (where treating with the recommended total dose in smaller amounts at more frequent intervals is advantageous).

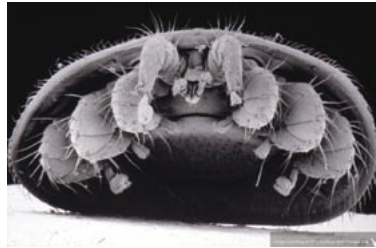


RESOURCE

New bioassay developed to test Varroa products

How can you tell that a varroa mite control treatment actually works? Vita's products are always rigorously tested, and showing that a varroa mite has actually died as a result of treatment is trickier and more time-consuming than you might imagine. With a research team at the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece, Vita has developed the fastest and most reliable test yet.

Research on the development of new varroa treatments requires rigorous testing, first in the laboratory and then in the field. Vita's ground-breaking new technique will reduce the bioassay testing time from potentially days to hours and is much more reliable than previous visual assessments. It is also expected to help identify mites that have developed resistance to certain treatments.



Varroa destructor

"This new bioassay is a real step forward that will bring many benefits," said Dr Max Watkins, Technical Director of Vita. "It works not just with varroa mites, but also with bees, wax moths and other insects."

The procedure involves securing a varroa mite upside down and placing a tiny sensor on its sternum. When upside-down, the reflex of the varroa (like other invertebrates and vertebrates) is to try to right itself. The resulting rhythmic pulses of the mite are measured by the sensor and represented on a graph. Any harmful effects of the treatment will change the reflex action and be visible on the graph.

"This new bioassay is a very useful tool that will save time and money before the field trial stages," continued Max Watkins. "Vita customers can be assured that our methods are at the forefront of scientific research and are developed for practical use. By speeding up laboratory tests, the whole R&D process becomes even more efficient and should help us to get products to market just that little bit quicker."

The scientific paper will soon appear in the Elsevier publication *Pesticide, Biochemistry and Physiology*. A video of the process will be available on the Vita website (www.vita-europe.com) soon after the scientific article is published.

Vita appoints Commercial Development Manager

Sebastian Owen has re-joined Vita as its global Commercial Development Manager after an almost four-year absence. He will be growing Vita's worldwide distributor network and strengthening the company's links with beekeeping suppliers across the globe. Over the past four years, he has gained invaluable experience in marketing in Hong Kong. He returns as Vita is set to expand into new

headquarters in Basingstoke in southern England. But his first major role will be at Apimondia 2011 in Buenos Aires, Argentina – meet him on the Vita stand: number B39.

The best bee fence

Kenya are turning to beekeeping to keep elephants from raiding their crops. In a pilot scheme, 17 farms were protected by 170 beehives along almost 2km of fencing. In 32 attempted raids only one bull elephant broke through the barrier to feast on the farmers' tomatoes, potatoes and maize.

Learning from bees

Swarm and Evolutionary Computation is a new journal from renowned scientific publisher Elsevier. It reports on developments in the area of nature-inspired intelligent computation. Bees can be very good at optimization problems where there are just too many variables to calculate the definitive solution.

Vita products**Apistan**

Varroa control strips (pyrethroid)

Apiguard

Varroa control gel (thymol)

EFB Testing Kit

European Foulbrood hiveside test

AFB Testing Kit

American Foulbrood hiveside test

B401

Biological wax moth control

Vita Feed Green

to strengthen colonies

Vita Feed Gold

to help prevent diarrhoea and strengthen weak colonies

Swarm Attractant Wipe

to catch swarms

NEWS MITE

The newsletter of
Vita (Europe) Ltd., honeybee health specialist.

Produced by Palam Communications
www.palam.co.uk



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