

# How Pesticides Impact Bees



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

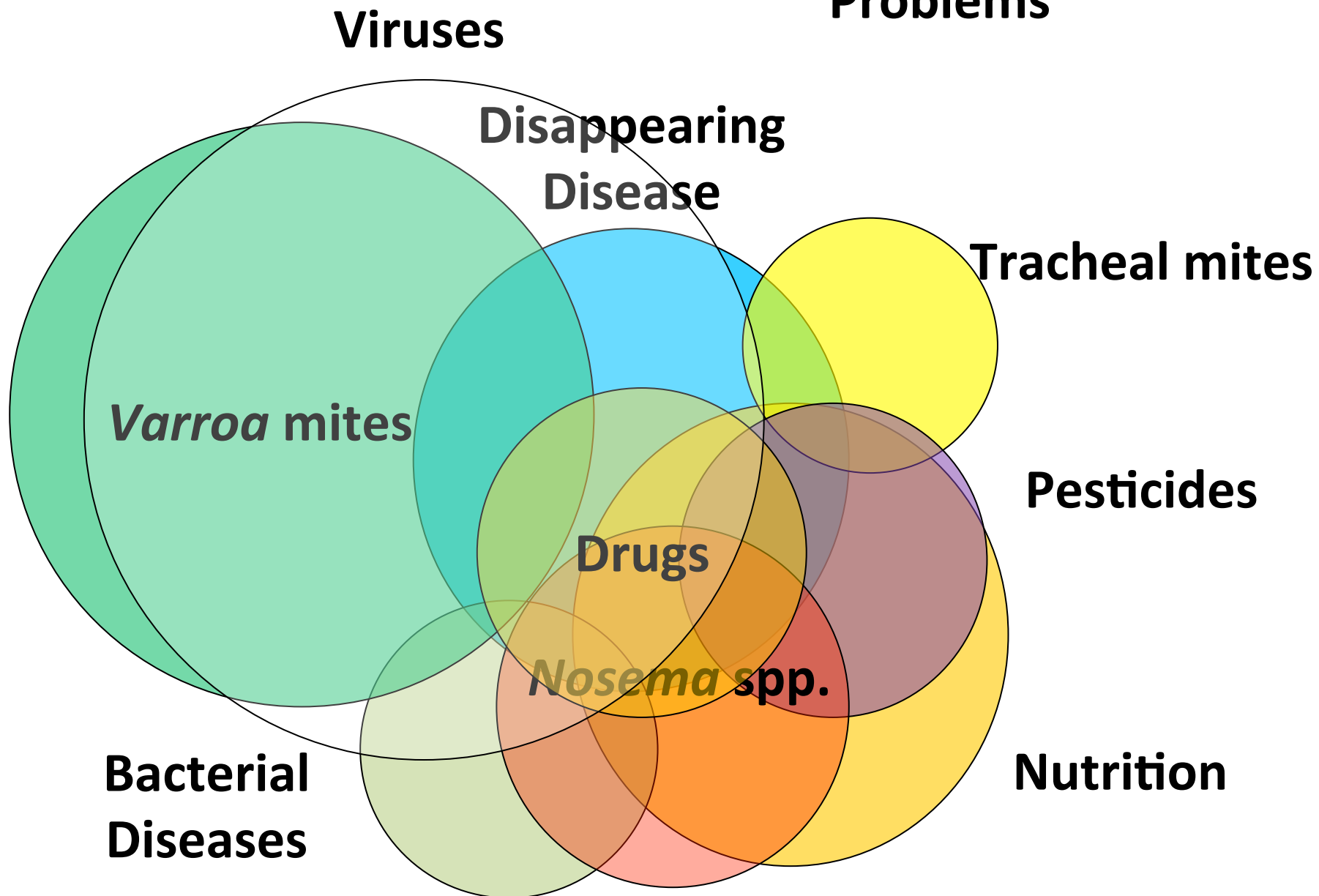
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Reed M. Johnson

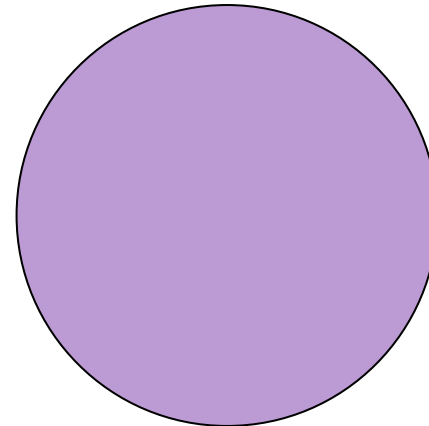
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# Intersecting Bee Health Problems





**How much of a problem are  
pesticides?**



**Pesticides**

# What is a “pesticide”?

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for:

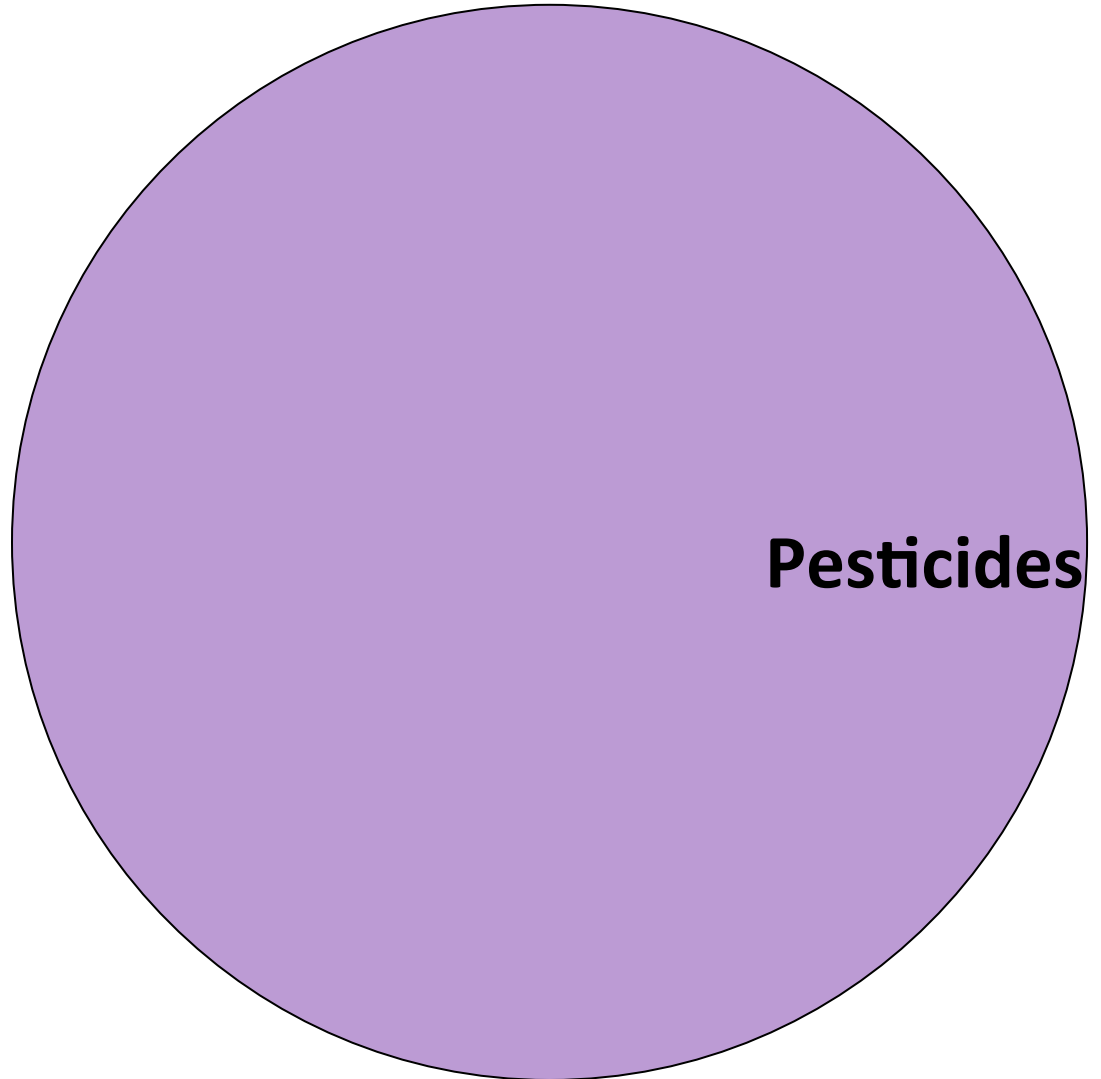
- preventing,
- destroying,
- repelling, or
- mitigating any pest.

Though often misunderstood to refer only to insecticides, the term pesticide also applies to **herbicides**, **fungicides**, and **various other substances** used to control pests.

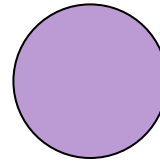
Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (1947)

[http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/index.htm#what\\_pesticide](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/index.htm#what_pesticide)

**How much of a problem are  
pesticides?**



**How much of a problem are  
pesticides?**



**Pesticides**

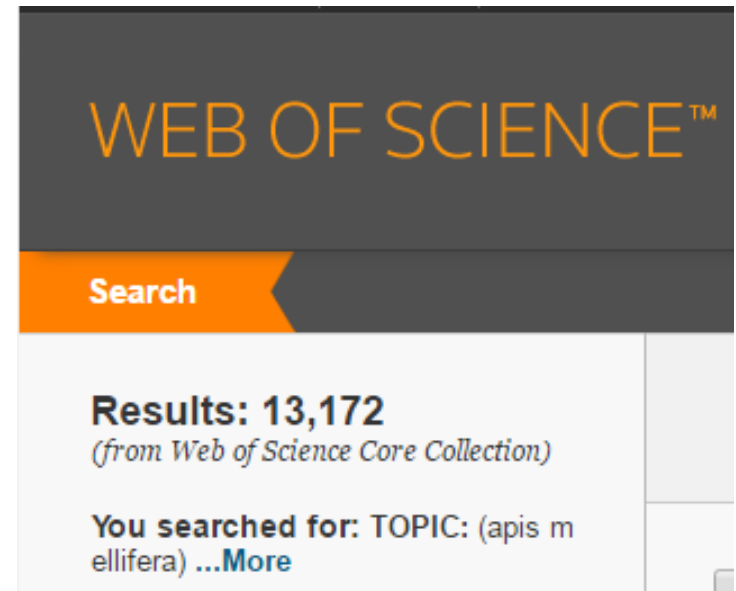
**Join the Conversation about Native Bees**

**What's the buzz?**

North America has over 4,400 described species of native bees\* that pollinate wildflowers and crops. From the tiny *Pedicularis minima* to the substantial carpenter bee (*Cyloceria venusta*), these local pollinators are hard at work in the floral landscapes of gardens, farms, forests, grasslands and urban and wild lands. Unfortunately, several species of native bees are showing disturbing signs of decline. Learn more about these colorful pollinators and how you can support them at [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

\*excluding honey bees

Logos at the bottom include: EPA, Pollinator Partnership, USDA, NRCS, National Geographic, National Science Foundation, DOW AgroSciences, Xcel Energy, Saint Louis Zoo, and others.



Honey bees are an active area of research

The honey bee was 3<sup>rd</sup> insect genome sequenced in 2006



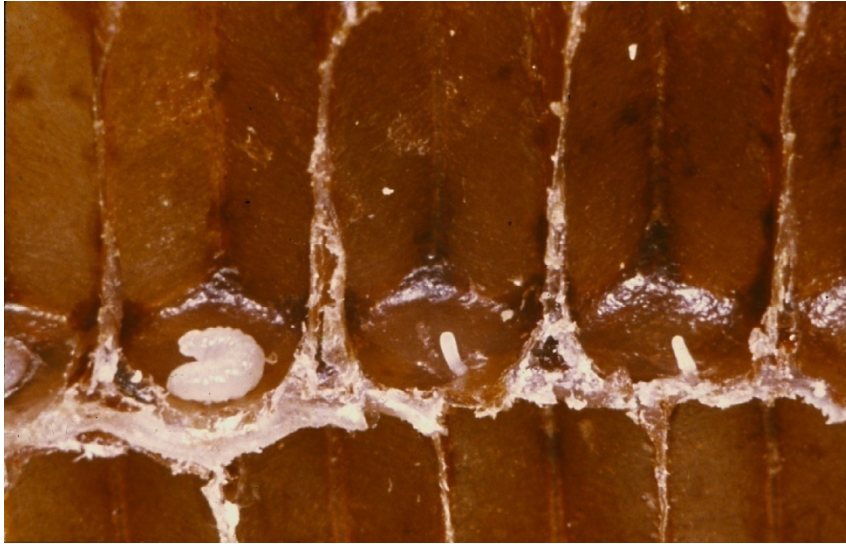


**Queen**  
**1**

**Workers**  
**3 - 100 thousand**

**Drones**  
**0 - hundreds**

# Four Developmental Stages of Brood



egg (3 days)

larva (5 days)

pupa (12 days)

adult (weeks-months)

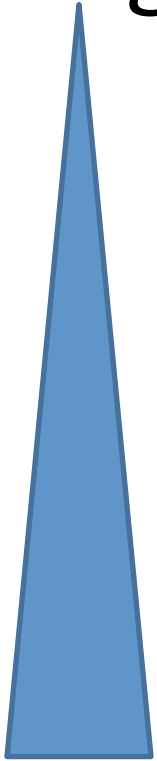
at 34°C





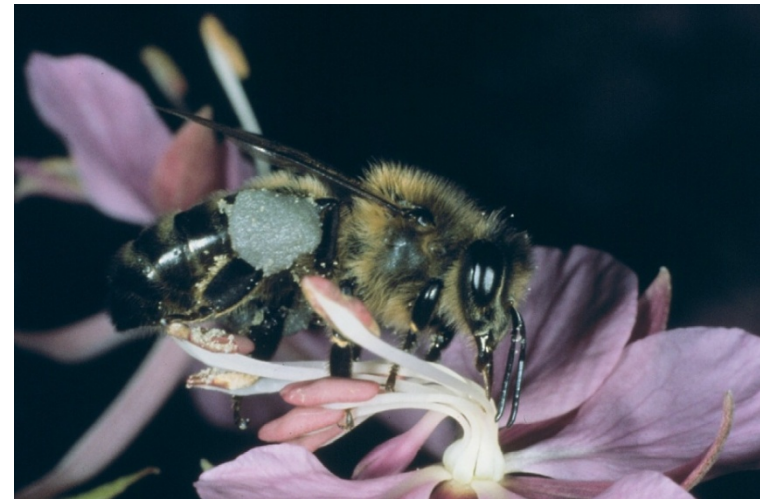
# Age Related Division of Labor

Younger

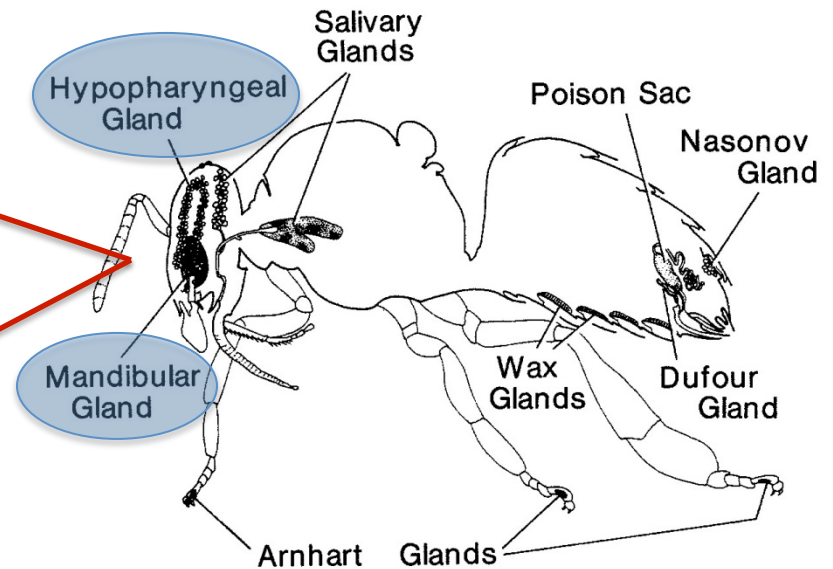
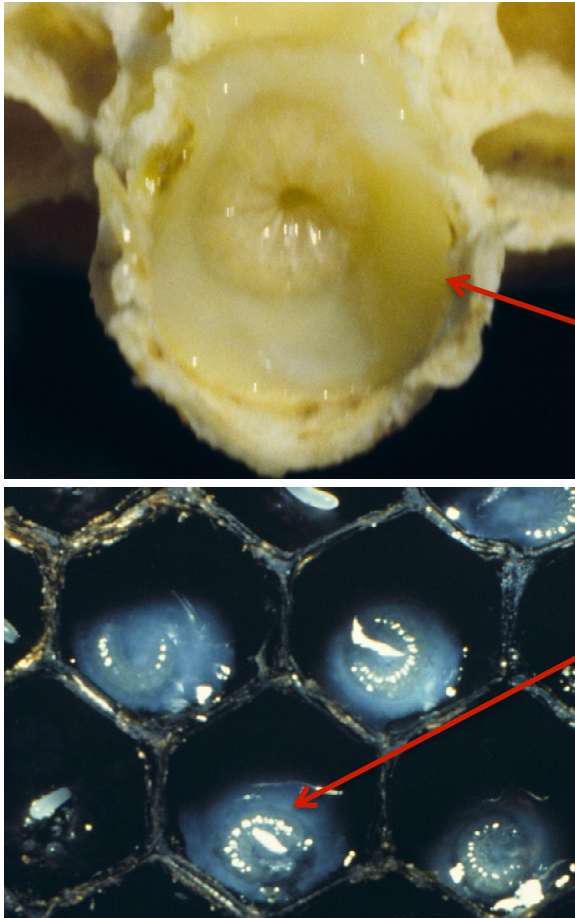


Older

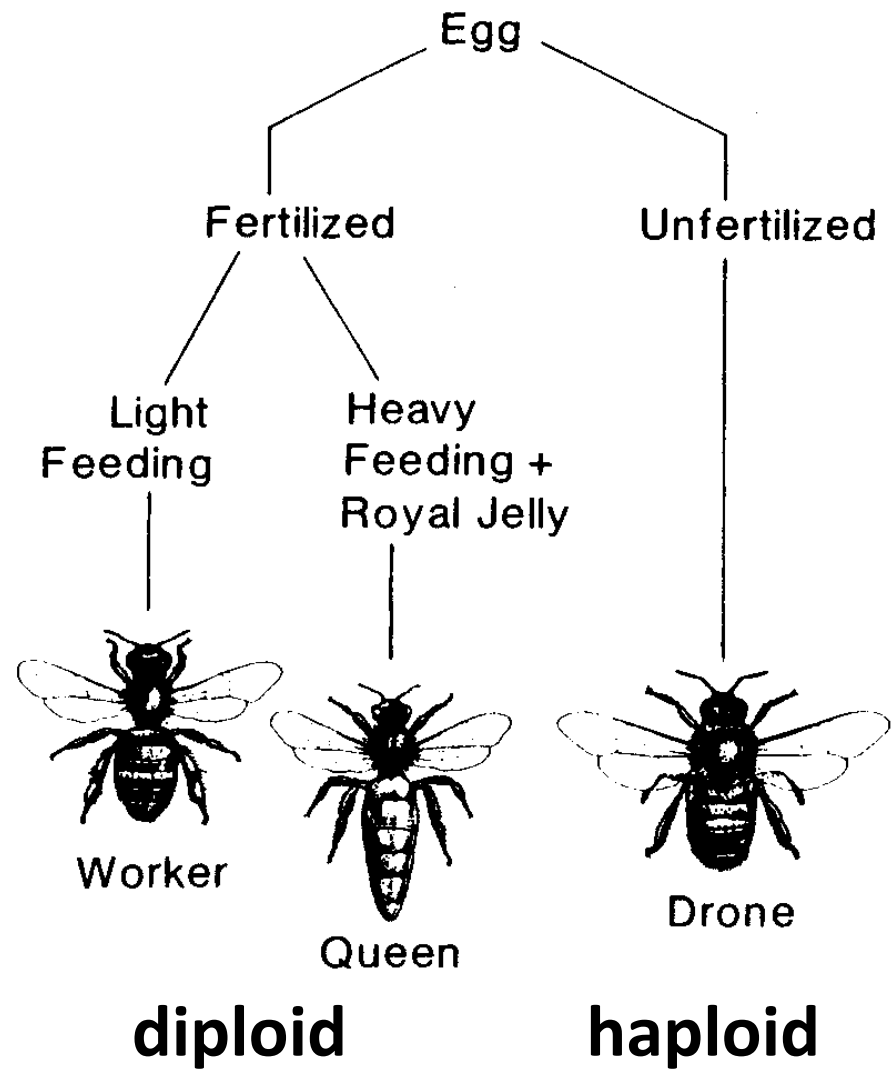
Cell cleaning  
Cell capping  
Brood tending  
Comb building  
Grooming  
Food handling  
Ventilating  
Guarding  
Foraging



# Larvae are progressively provisioned with “jelly” secretion from adults



Nurse bees consume large quantities of protein-rich pollen to support jelly secretion



Winston, 1987, "The Biology of the Honey Bee"



Foraging range for a bee colony =  
2800 hectares

3 kilometers

# Forager bees collect:

## Nectar



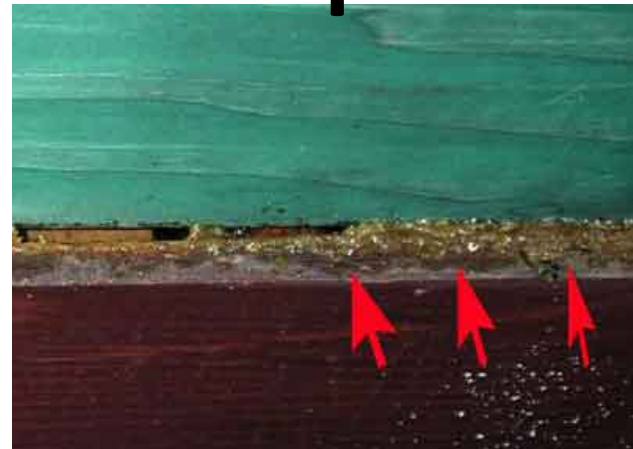
## Water



## Pollen



## Propolis





# Forager bees collect:

## Nectar

300 kg

(65 kg honey)

7.5 million trips

## Water

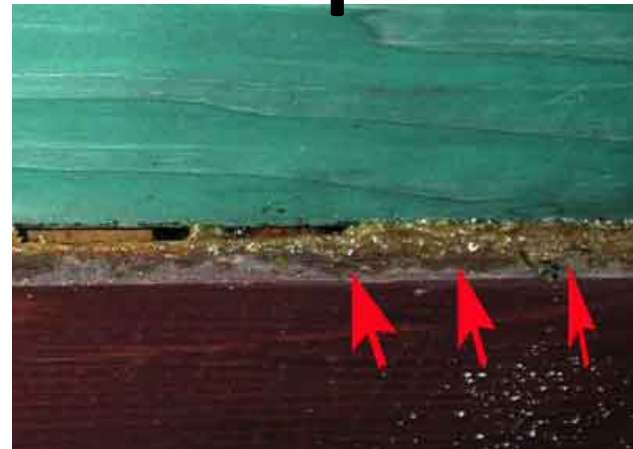


## Pollen

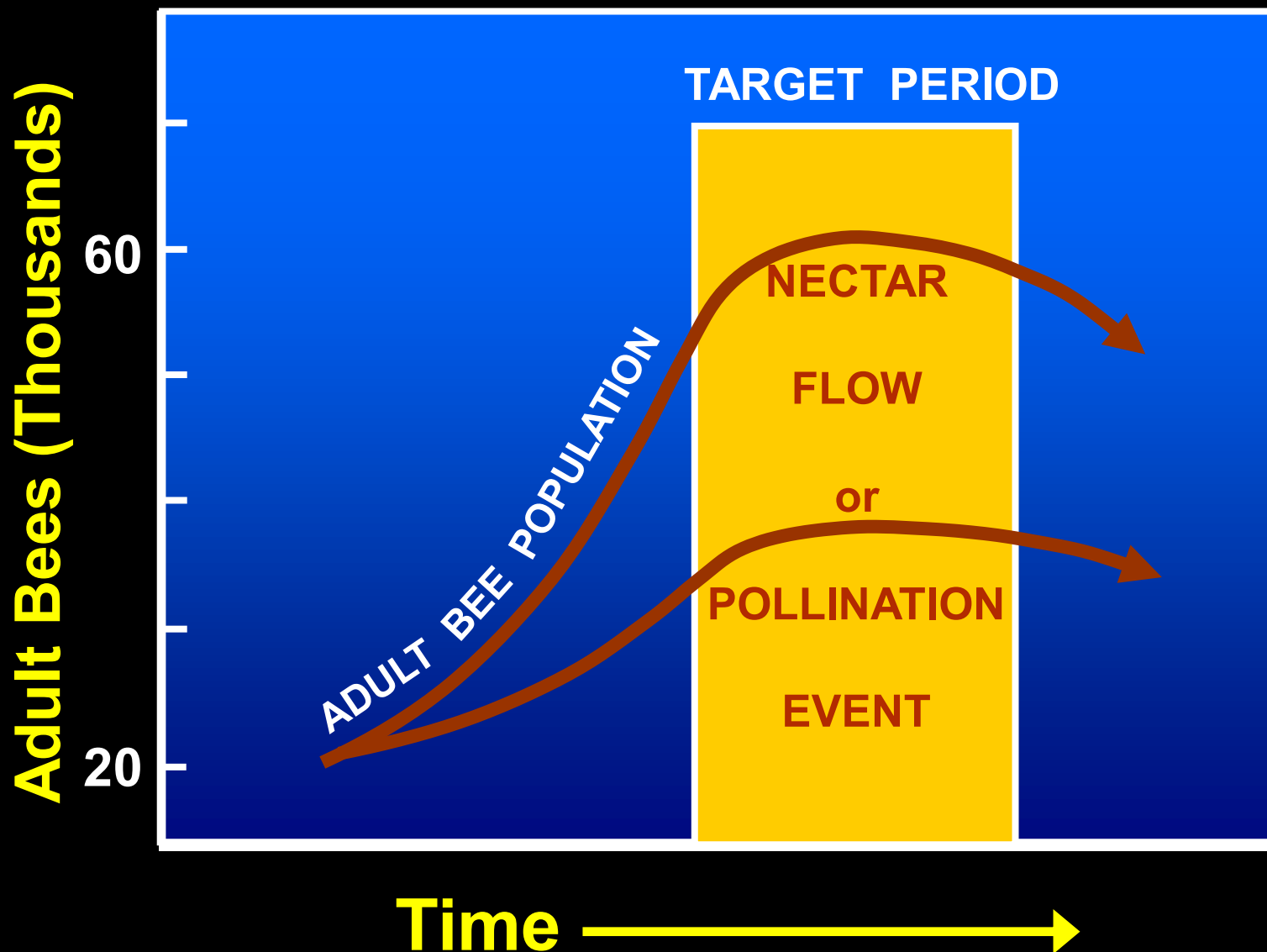
20 kg

1 million trips

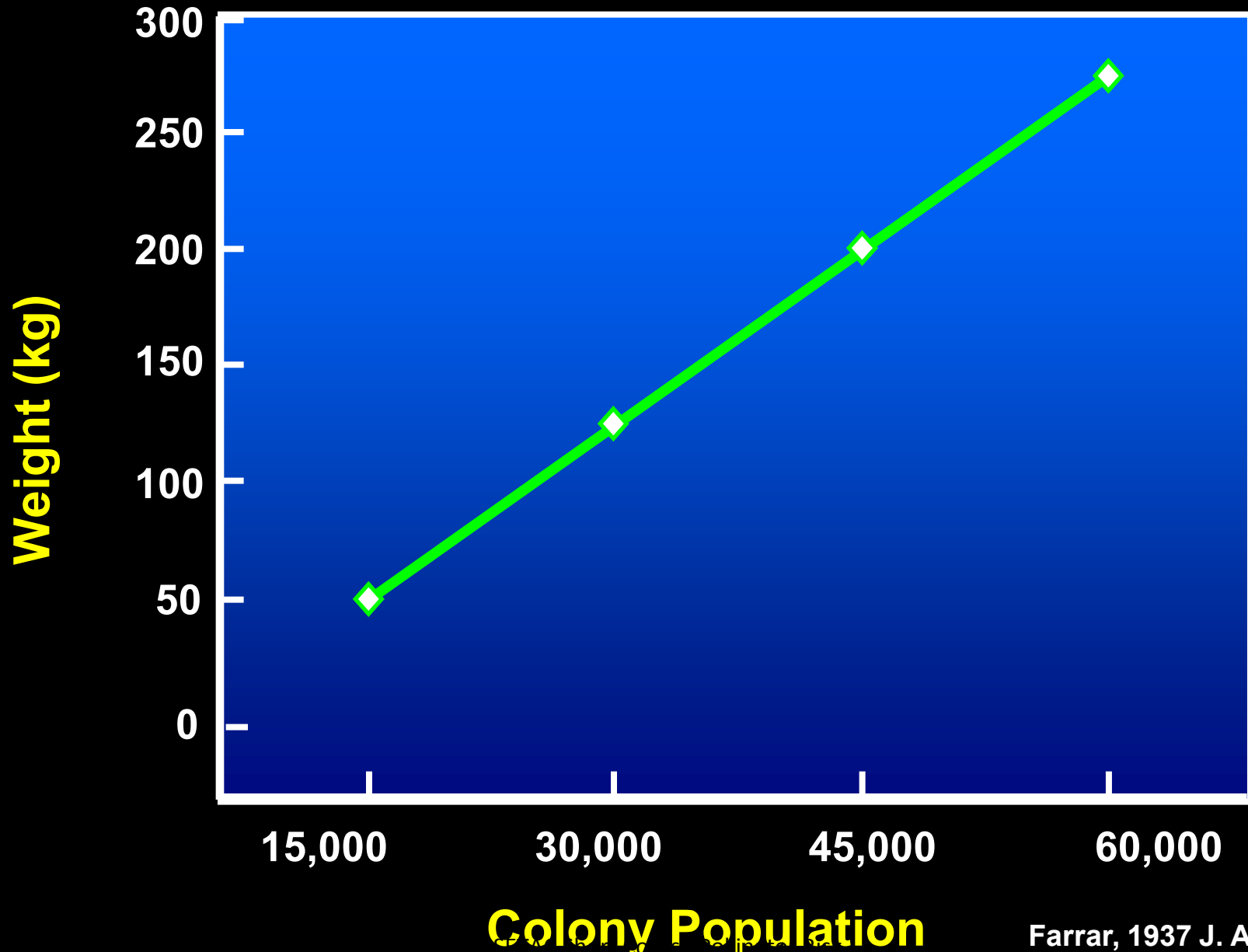
## Propolis



# COLONY POPULATION

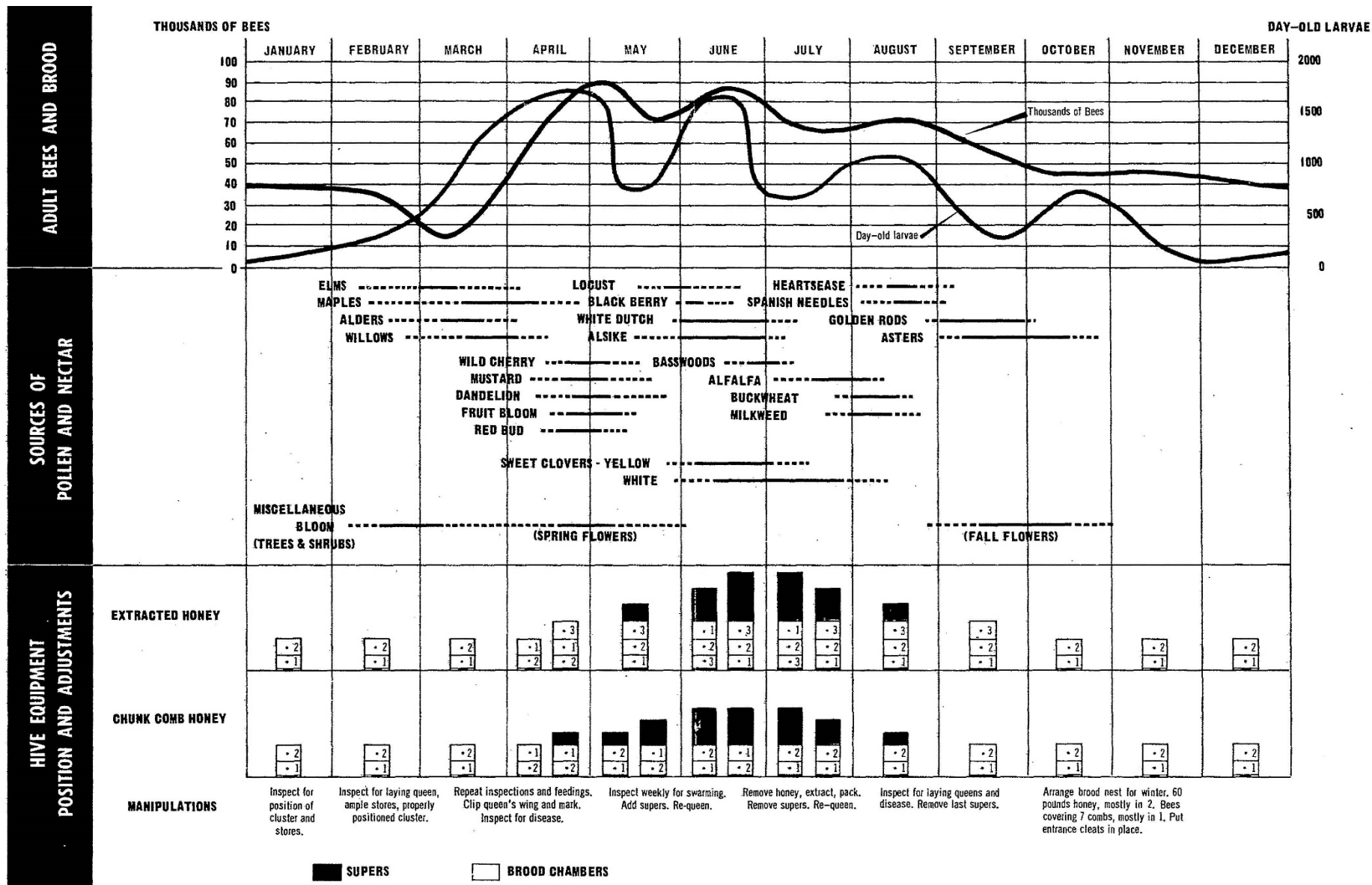


# HONEY PRODUCTION



Farrar, 1937 J. Agric. Res.





## Ohio State University Extension Beekeeping Almanac, 1981



White dutch clover



Yellow sweet clover

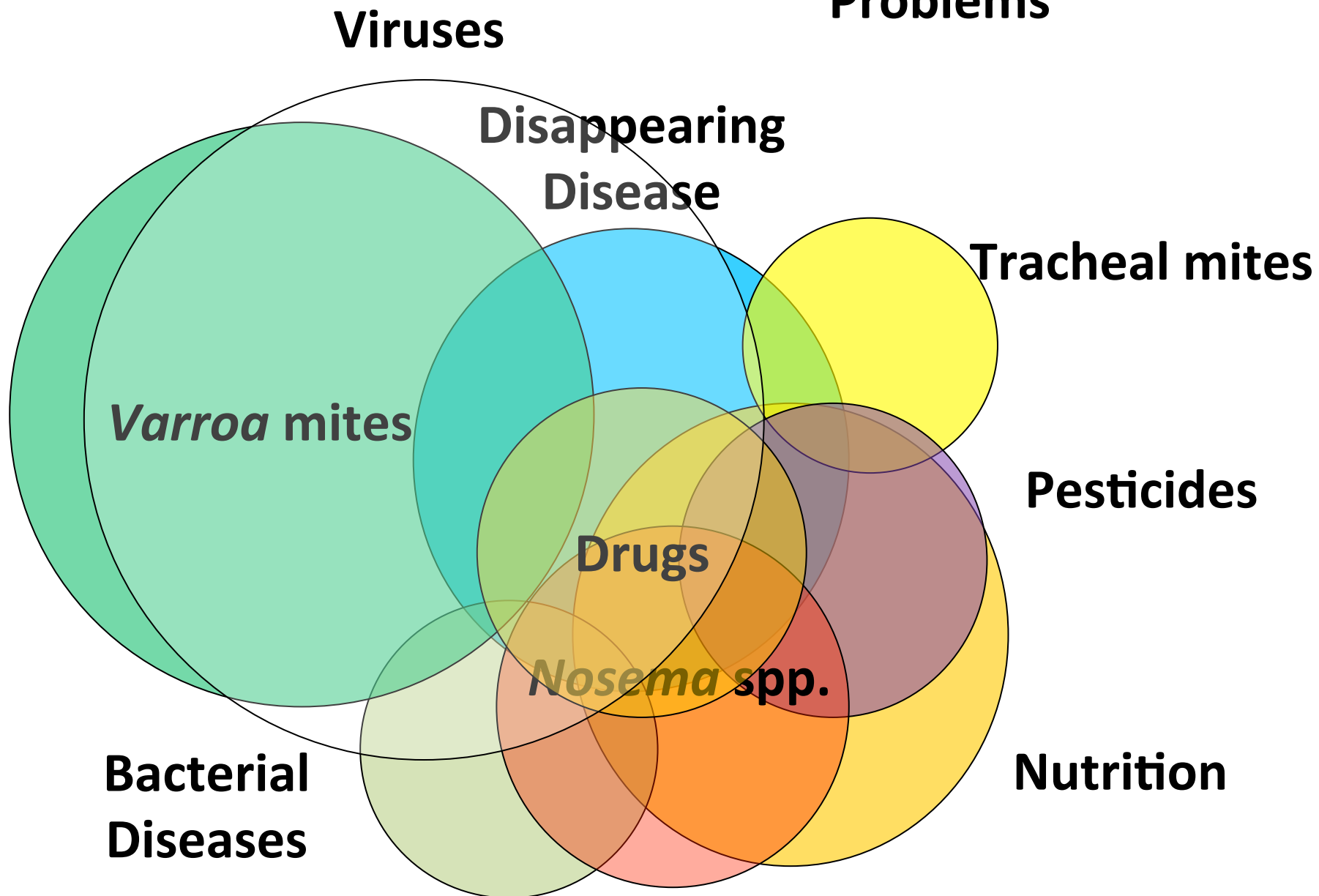


Basswood / Linden



Tulip Poplar

# Intersecting Bee Health Problems



# Honey bee hives are repositories for many compounds

Bee Pesticide*	Class <sup>b</sup>	Detects	Samples	% Analyzed	Detections (ppb)							SEM <sup>c</sup>	LOD <sup>d</sup>
					High	Low	Median	90 <sup>th</sup> tile	95 <sup>th</sup> tile	Mean <sup>e</sup>			
Fluralaner	PYR	117	140	83.6	5860.0	1.1	53.0	610.8	1710.0	357.7	94.5	1.0	
Cumaphos	OP	84	140	60.0	762.0	1.0	8.0	118.7	156.2	50.4	13.5	1.0	
Chlorpyrifos	OP	12	140	8.6	10.7	1.0	2.2	8.5	9.7	3.4	0.9	0.1	
Chlorothalonil	FUNG	10	140	7.1	878.0	1.5	7.2	121.1	499.5	100.2	86.5	1.0	
Cypermethrin	PYR	9	140	6.4	25.8	2.0	3.5	22.0	23.9	10.1	3.2	1.0	
Permethrin	PYR	8	140	5.7	19600.0	12.0	35.8	5919.2	12759.6	2478.1	2446.0	10.0	
DAMP (amitraz)	FORM	8	125	6.4	9040.0	6.0	117.5	3015.8	6027.9	1249.1	1114.1	4.0	
Servieralate	PYR	8	140	5.7	3.3	1.0	3.3	8.5	12.6	6.9	4.2	0.5	
Methidathion	OP	10	140	5.0	32.0	6.5	12.0	26.4	30.2	16.2	3.6	1.0	
Deltamethrin	PYR	6	140	4.3	39.0	23.0	26.5	38.5	38.8	29.3	3.0	20.0	
Permethrin	HERB	6	140	4.3	27.6	6.5	14.0	26.4	27.0	15.9	3.8	1.0	
Gylfuthrin	PYR	5	140	3.6	14.0	2.0	10.0	13.2	13.6	8.2	2.4	1.0	
Dicofol	OC	5	140	3.6	3.8	1.0	1.4	3.6	3.7	2.1	0.6	0.4	
Fenprophathrin	OP	4	140	2.9	37.0	2.8	14.2	32.8	34.9	17.1	8.0	0.4	
Azinphos methyl	OP	4	140	2.9	22.0	4.8	13.1	20.5	21.3	13.3	3.9	3.0	
Cyprodinil	S FUNG	4	140	2.9	19.0	9.2	11.0	16.6	17.8	12.6	2.2	5.0	
THPI (captan)	PS FUNG	3	125	2.4	43.4	37.7	39.5	42.6	43.0	40.2	1.7	30.0	
Alethrin	PYR	3	140	2.1	24.0	6.7	19.0	23.0	23.5	16.6	5.1	1.0	
Tetramethrin	PYR	3	140	2.1	23.0	18.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	21.3	1.7	6.0	
Methoxyfenozide	IGR	3	140	2.1	21.0	1.5	3.4	17.5	19.2	8.6	6.2	0.4	
Endosulfan I	CYC	3	140	2.1	6.1	1.3	1.6	5.2	5.7	3.0	1.6	0.1	
Endosulfan sulfate	CYC	3	140	2.1	3.0	1.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.4	0.4	0.1	
Endosulfan II	CYC	3	140	2.1	2.4	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.4	1.9	0.3	0.1	
Parathion methyl	OP	3	140	2.1	2.0	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.1	1.0	
Cyhalothrin	PYR	3	140	2.1	1.8	1.1	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.5	0.2	0.1	
DMA (amitraz)	FORM	2	125	1.6	4740.0	275.0	2075.0	4293.5	4516.8	2557.0	2232.5	50.0	
Fipronil	INS	2	140	1.4	3060.0	9.9	1330.5	2755.0	2907.5	1530.5	1525.1	1.0	
Bifenthrin	PYR	2	140	1.4	12.3	2.9	7.6	11.4	11.8	7.6	4.7	0.4	
Dieldrin	CYC	2	140	1.4	12.0	10.0	11.0	11.8	11.9	11.0	1.0	4.0	
Trallethrin	PYR	2	140	1.4	8.6	6.2	7.4	8.4	8.5	7.4	1.2	4.0	
Cumaphos oxon	OP	2	140	1.4	6.8	2.1	4.5	6.3	6.6	4.5	2.4	5.0	
Oxyfluorfen	HERB	2	140	1.4	4.8	3.8	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.3	0.5	0.5	
Fluorfenoxpyr	PS MITI	2	140	1.4	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.3	0.5	1.0	
Carbaryl	PS CARB	1	140	0.7	588.0	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.0	—	
1 Naphthol (carbaryl)	S CARB	1	140	0.7	238.0	238.0	238.0	238.0	238.0	238.0	—	—	
Bimethomol	S FUNG	1	125	0.8	56.0	56.0	56.0	56.0	56.0	56.0	—	15.0	
Tebucnazole	S FUNG	1	140	0.7	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	—	3.0	
Chlorfenvin (cumaphos)	OP	1	125	0.8	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	—	25.0	
Tebuconazole	IGR	1	140	0.7	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	—	—	
Fenoxpropr-ethyl	S HERB	1	140	0.7	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4	—	6.0	
Atrazine	S HERB	1	140	0.7	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	—	1.0	
Gabendimaz	S FUNG	1	140	0.7	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	—	1.0	
Pyraclostrobin	FUNG	1	140	0.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	—	1.0	
ODE pp <sup>2</sup>	OC	1	140	0.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	—	3.0	
Fluridone	S HERB	1	140	0.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	—	5.0	
Pronamide	S HERB	1	140	0.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	—	1.0	

Carbendazim is also a degradate of benomyl. Thiabendazole is a degradate of thiophanate methyl.

\*Class CAR = carbamate, CYC = cyclodien, FOM = formamidine, FUNG = fungicide, HERB = herbicide, IGR = insect growth regulator, INS = misc. insecticide, MITI = miticide, NEO = neonotinoid, OC = organochlorine, OP = organophosphate, PS = partial systemic, PYR = pyrethroid, S = systemic.

†Mean and SEM for detections > LOD.

‡LOD = limit of detection (ppb).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009754.t003

Pesticide	Maximum PHQ contact	Maximum PHQ oral	No. detections (of 313 samples)	
Phosmet	75,255	44,746 <sup>a</sup>	103	33
Imidacloprid	1,595	17,949	38	12
Indoxacarb	5,957 <sup>a</sup>	2,149 <sup>a</sup>	4	1
Chlorpyrifos	2,520	101	14	4
Fipronil	590	839	2	0
Thiamethoxam	171	820	3	1
Azinphos- methyl	290	813	5	1
Fenthion	640		16	5
Dinotefuran	162	330	3	1
Carbaryl	206		127	40
Fluvalinate	200		1	0
Methomyl	150	83	12	3
Diazinon	82	90	3	1
Malathion	67	35	2	0
Carbendazim	36		92	29
5-OH- Imidacloprid		35	1	0
Acephate	33		6	1
Dimethoate	26	75	4	1
Dichlorvos	19		2	0
Carbofuran	18		2	0
Methamidophos	16		1	0

Pesticide	Insecticide family	LD <sub>50</sub> (ppm) <sup>a</sup>	Crops in which detected <sup>b</sup>	Detections	Quantity detected, mean ± se (max) (ppb)	Relative risk (95% CI)
<b>Fungicides</b>						
Azoxystrobin		>1,562.5 [64]	Cr, Cu, Wa	10	60.3 ± 25.6 (332)	0.75 (0.55, 1.02)
Captafen		>781.13 [65]	Ap, Cr, Cu, Wa	9	976.9 ± 734.4 (13,800)	0.59 (0.42, 0.81) <sup>c</sup>
Imazalil		>1,414.0 [66]	Ap, Bl, Cr, Cu, Pu, Wa17	3	4,491.2 ± 2,307.7 (29,000)	2.31 (1.35, 3.94) <sup>c</sup>
Spinosad		<6.125 [67]	Ap	3	996.9 ± 707.5 (12,700)	0.31 (0.15, 0.65) <sup>c</sup>
Difenoconazole		>781.25 [68]	Ap	3	171.4 ± 119.4 (210)	0.31 (0.15, 0.65) <sup>c</sup>
Fluconazole		>2,324.65 [69]	Ap, Cr, Cu	10	227.3 ± 89.2 (1,420)	0.33 (0.23, 0.48) <sup>c</sup>
Pyrioxystrobin		573.4 [70]	Cr, Pu	4	2,787.1 ± 1,890.1 (27,000)	2.85 (2.16, 3.78) <sup>c</sup>
Quinone (PCNB)		>0.78 [71]	Cr	2	0.3 ± 0.3 (47)	0.97 (0.59, 1.61)
ThiPh	Captaen metabolite		Cr, Cu	3	832.1 ± 531.8 (9,470)	0.42 (0.21, 0.82) <sup>c</sup>
<b>Herbicides</b>						
Carfentrazone ethyl		>217.97 [72]	Cr	1	0.1 ± 0.08 (1.6)	1.05 (0.54, 2.05)
Pendimethalin		>388.28 [73]	Ap, Cr, Pu	5	51.3 ± 37.6 (65)	1.47 (1.08, 1.99) <sup>c</sup>
<b>Insecticides</b>						
2,4-Dimethylphenyl formate (Dimethyath)	Amiratz (formandime) metabolite		Bl, Cu, Pu, Wa	10	171.5 ± 117.0 (2,060)	2.13 (1.56, 2.92) <sup>c</sup>
Acaridiazin	Neonicotinoid	55.47 [65]	Ap	3	59.1 ± 32.2 (401)	0.15 (0.15, 0.65) <sup>c</sup>
Bifenthrin	Pyrethroid	0.11 [74]	Pu, Wa	3	6.6 ± 3.8 (53.1)	2.08 (1.53, 2.83) <sup>c</sup>
Carbaryl	Carbamate	8.59 [75]	Ap, Cu, Wa	6	57.8 ± 30.0 (403)	0.42 (0.27, 0.66) <sup>c</sup>
Chlorpyrifos	Organophosphate	0.86 [16]	Ap, Cr, Cu, Pu	7	31.1 ± 11 (15.5)	0.69 (0.46, 1.23)
Composh <sup>®</sup>	Organophosphate	35.94 [16]	Bl, Cr, Cu	6	2.2 ± 10 (17.5)	0.82 (0.45, 0.91) <sup>c</sup>
Cyfluthrin	Pyrethroid	~0.31 [76]	Cr, Wa	2	0.6 ± 0.4 (5.4)	1.31 (0.85, 2.02)
Cyhalothrin	Pyrethroid	0.30 [77]	Ap, Pu	7	14.6 ± 7.9 (131)	0.94 (0.69, 1.29)
Cypermethrin	Pyrethroid	0.18 ± 0.38 [78]	Cr	1	0.4 ± 0.4 (6.9)	0.55 (0.54, 2.05)
Deltamethrin	Pyrethroid	0.39 [79]	Cr	1	4.5 ± 4.5 (85.3)	1.05 (0.54, 2.04)
Diazinon	Organophosphate	1.72 [80]	Ap, Cr	3	1.4 ± 10 (15.8)	0.56 (0.32, 0.97) <sup>c</sup>
Endosulfan I	Cyclodiene	54.69 [16]	Ap, Cr, Cu, Pu, Wa	8	15.3 ± 9.7 (12.9)	1.05 (1.0, 2.14) <sup>c</sup>
Endosulfan II	Cyclodiene	54.69 [16]	Ap, Cr, Cu	6	0.8 ± 0.3 (3.3)	1.41 (1.04, 1.91) <sup>c</sup>
Endosulfan sulfate	Endosulfan metabolite		Cr, Cu	4	0.3 ± 0.2 (2.1)	0.79 (0.52, 1.19)
Esfenvalerate	Pyrethroid		Ap, Cr, Pu	7	16.9 ± 10.2 (216)	0.51 (0.33, 0.87) <sup>c</sup>
Fluxusinal <sup>®</sup>	Pyrethroid	1.56 [82]	Bl, Cr, Cu, Pu	16	42.4 ± 29.7 (570)	2.43 (1.49, 3.96) <sup>c</sup>
Heptachlor epoxide	Heptachlor (cyclodiene) metabolite		Cr	1	0.6 ± 0.6 (1.2)	1.05 (0.54, 2.04)
Imidacloprid	Neonicotinoid	0.23 [83]	Ap	3	2.8 ± 2.0 (36.5)	0.31 (0.15, 0.65) <sup>c</sup>
Imidacloprid	Oxadiazine	1.41 [84]	Cr	2	0.5 ± 0.5 (9)	0.28 (0.11, 0.73) <sup>c</sup>
Indoxacarb	Organophosphate	1.85 [85]	Cr	1	1.6 ± 16 (31)	0.55 (0.54, 2.04)
Permethrin	Carbamate	~3.91 [86]	Wa	1	13.6 ± 13.6 (259)	1.54 (0.9, 2.41) <sup>c</sup>
Phosmet	Organophosphate	8.83 [87]	Ap, Cr, Cu	5	796.7 ± 772.4 (14,700)	0.36 (0.21, 0.61) <sup>c</sup>
Pyrethrin	Pyrethroid	0.16 [16]	Cr	1	51.5 ± 1.97 (40)	0.55 (0.54, 2.05)
Thiophos	Neonicotinoid	114.06 [90]	Ap	2	1.1 ± 0.8 (12.4)	0.35 (0.15, 0.82) <sup>c</sup>
<b>Contact diets</b>						
BRL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.58 (0.23, 1.48)
Meqabe	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.74 (0.33, 1.67)

NA indicates information that is not relevant to control diets.



Paracelsus  
1493-1541

The Father  
of  
Toxicology



Portrait by Quentin Massys

# poisons

"All things are poison  
and nothing is without  
poison, only the dose  
permits something not  
to be poisonous."

-Paracelsus 1493-1541

# drugs

# poisons

“The dose  
makes the  
poison”

-Paracelsus 1493-1541

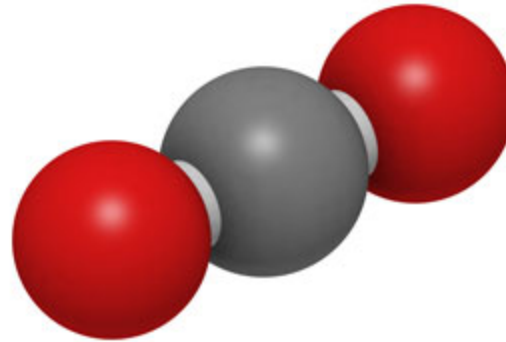
# drugs

**Risk = Hazard x Exposure**



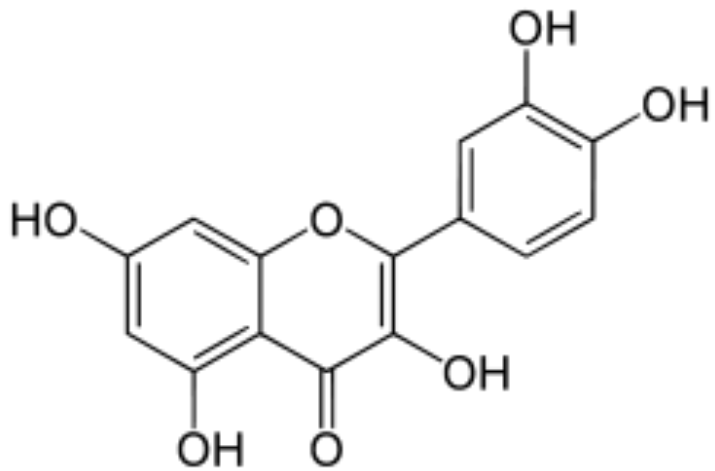
# Toxic Gasses

Carbon dioxide



- Induces queens to begin laying eggs
- Reduces longevity of workers

# Toxic Pollen



quercetin



# Toxic Nectar

Caffeine  
Nicotine  
Amygdalin

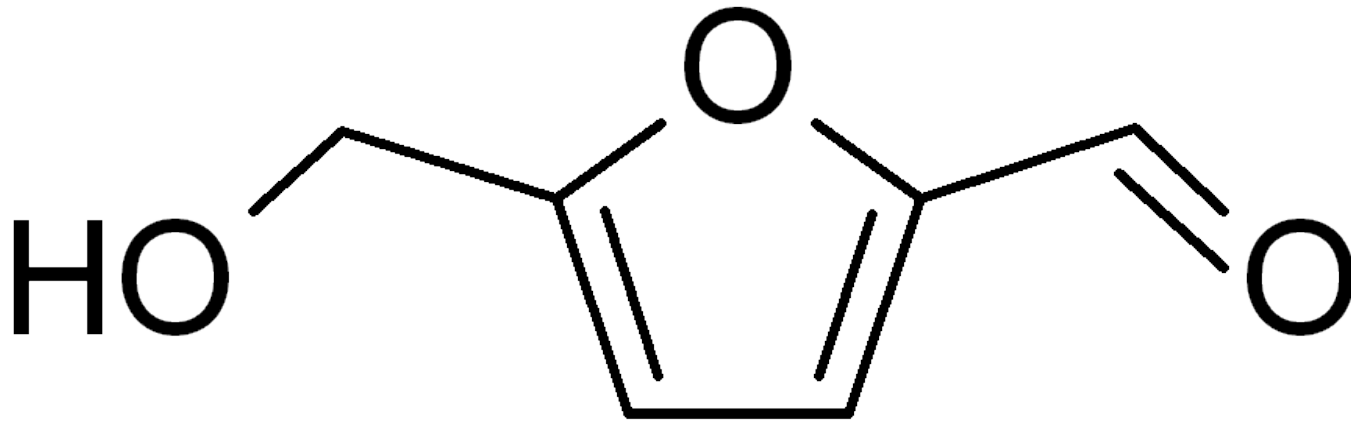


Bees may prefer nectar  
that is toxic

Learn to avoid high  
concentrations



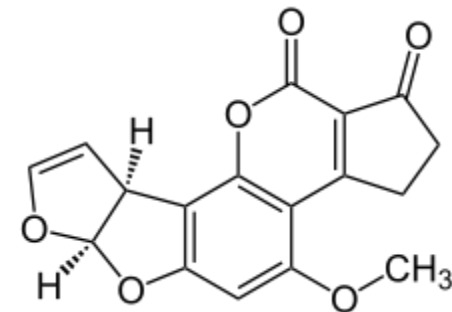
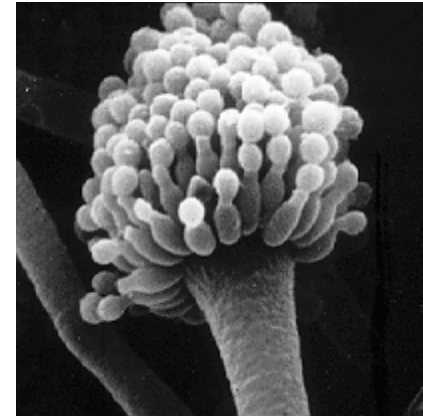
# Toxic Honey



Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF)

Fructose is naturally converted to toxic HMF over time

# Toxins produced by microorganisms



Aflatoxin B1

Aflatoxins are produced by *Aspergillus* fungi growing on pollen and bee bread

# Bees have ways of dealing with exposure to natural toxins

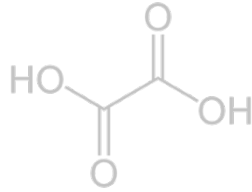
- Detoxification
- Avoidance
- Dilution

Do these same processes work for modern pesticides?



# *Varroa destructor*



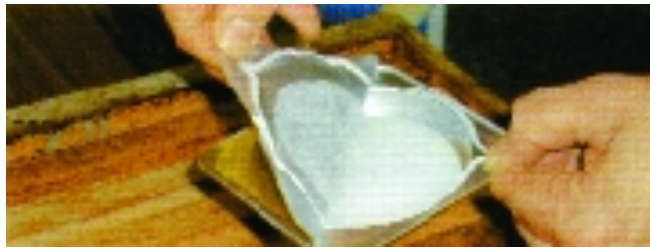


coumaphos  
 thymol  
 (organophosphate)  
 (monofluorinated)  
 hops beta-acids  
 (pyrethroid)  
 (oxythiaz acid)  
 formic acids  
 (formamide)  
 (organic acids)  
 fenpyroximate  
 (pyrazole)



**Hivastan™**





**49 g mono-  
terpenoids**



**1.4 g pyrethroid**

**0.7g phenyl-  
pyrazole**



**2.8 g  
organophosphate**



**1.8 g  
organic acid**

**1.0 g formamidine**

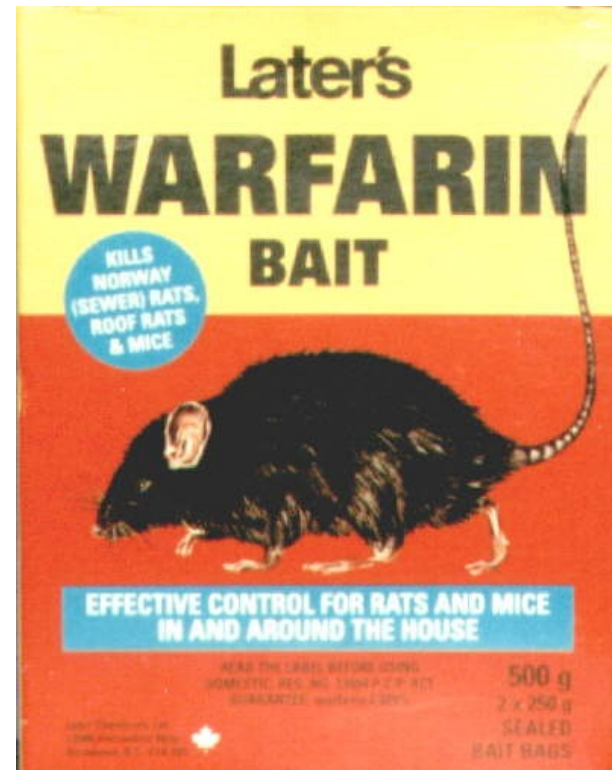
**“The dose  
makes the  
poison”**

**-Paracelsus 1493-1541**

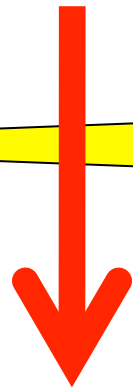


**Quentin Massys**



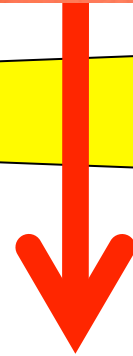


**no effect**



**therapeutic**

**harmful**



**deadly**



**no effect**



**therapeutic**

**harmful**



**deadly**

What is a safe dose?

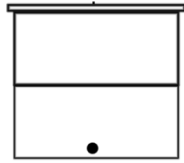
What is a toxic dose?

Lethal Dose 50%

(LD<sub>50</sub>)

# Lab LD<sub>50</sub> Bioassays





collect brood

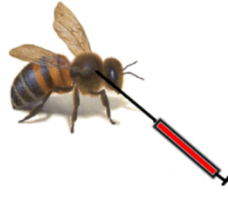
age adults 3-4 d.



low



medium



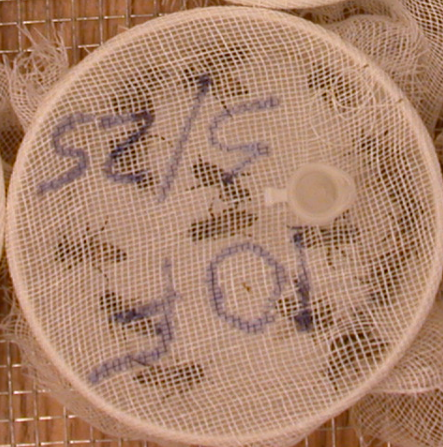
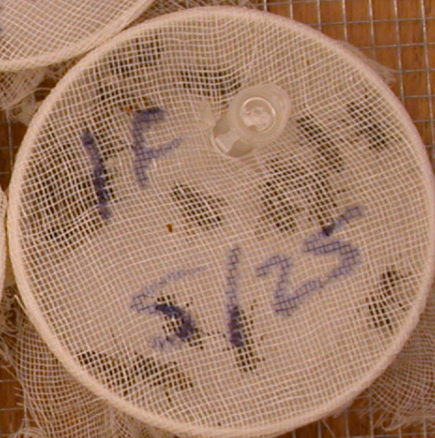
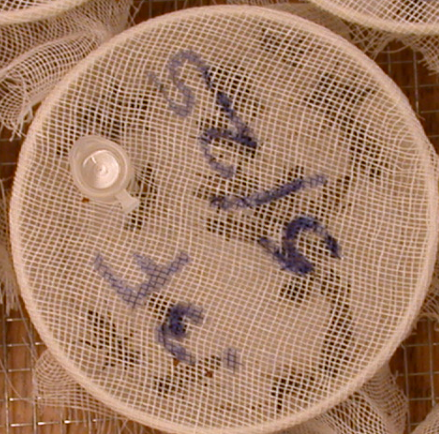
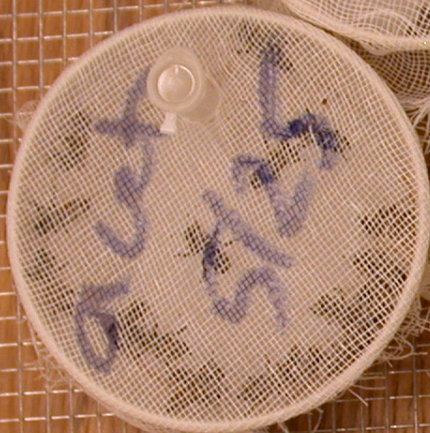
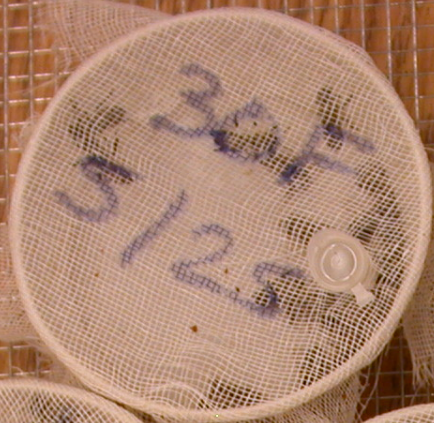
high

pesticide

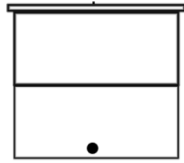




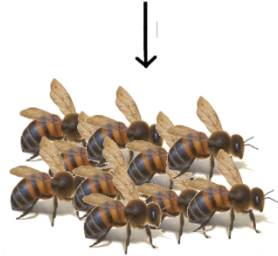








collect brood



age adults 3-4 d.



low



medium

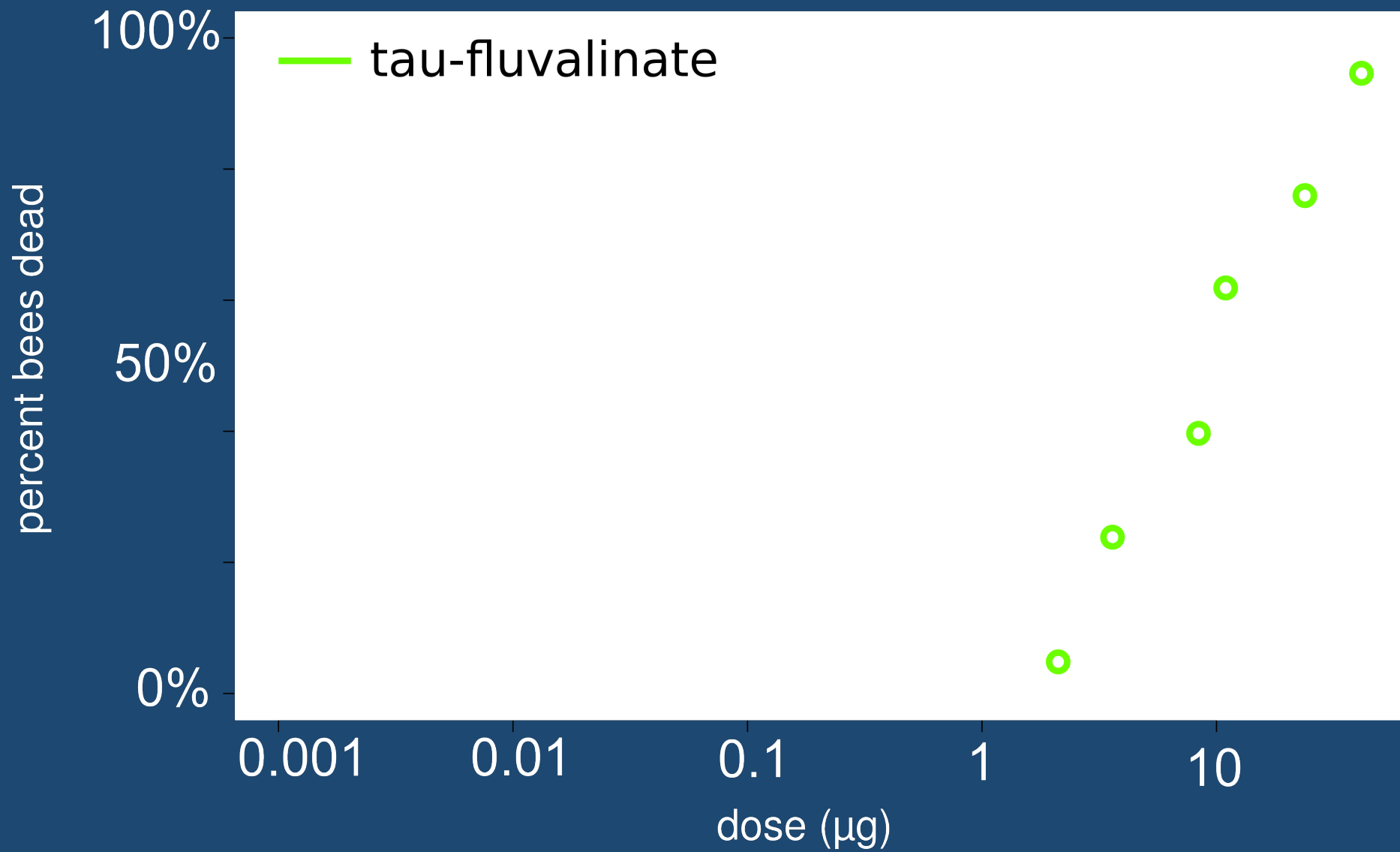


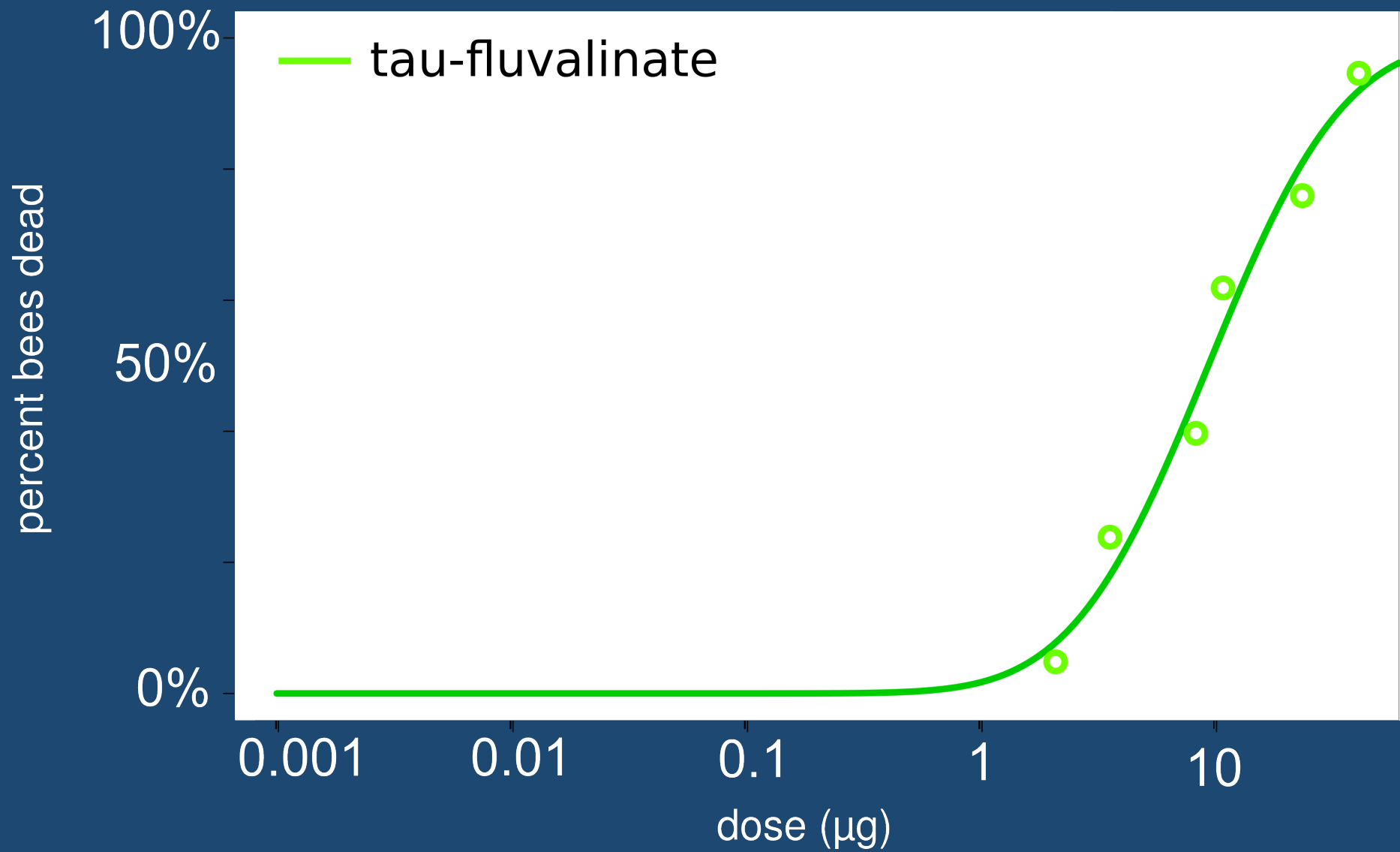
high

pesticide

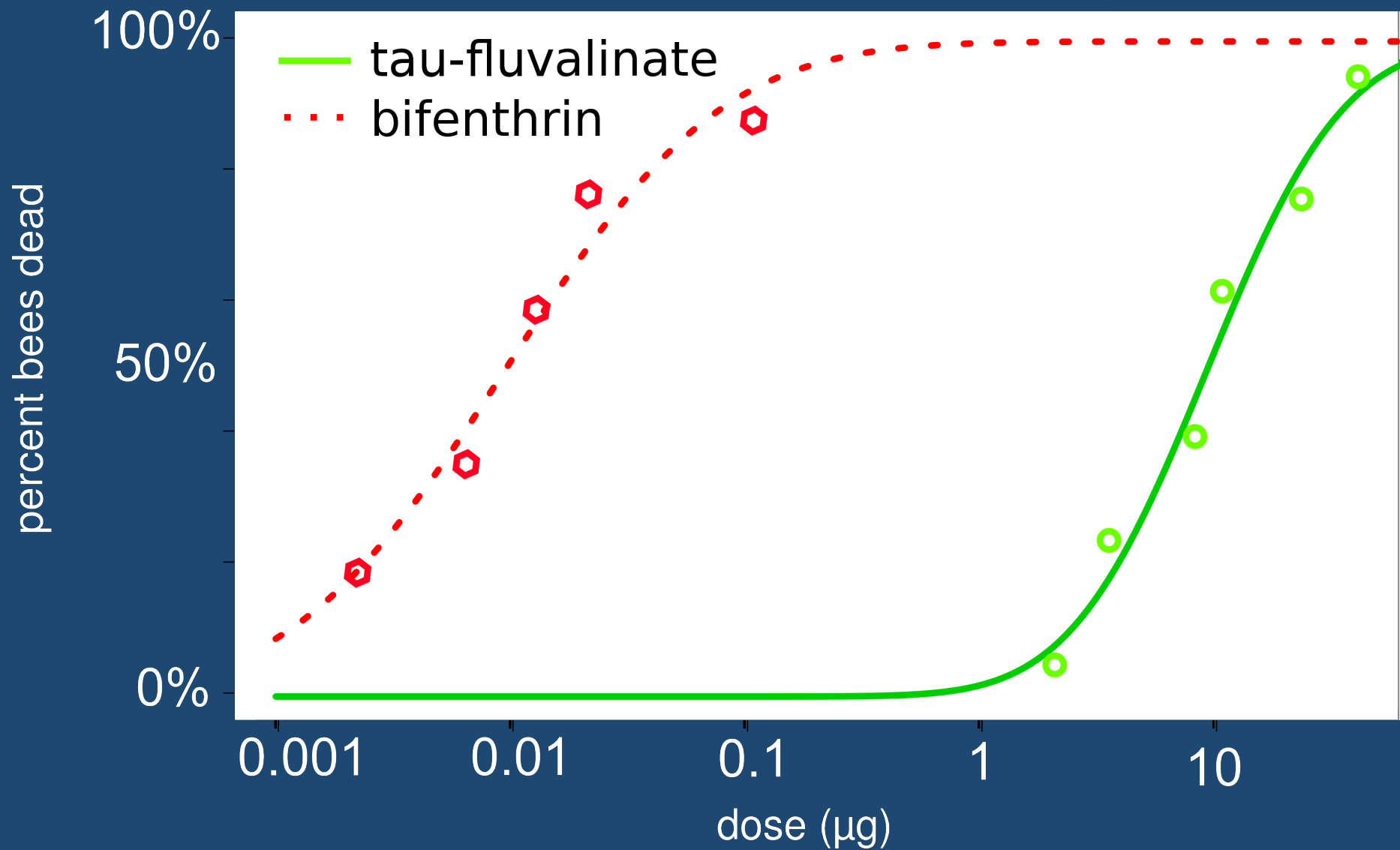


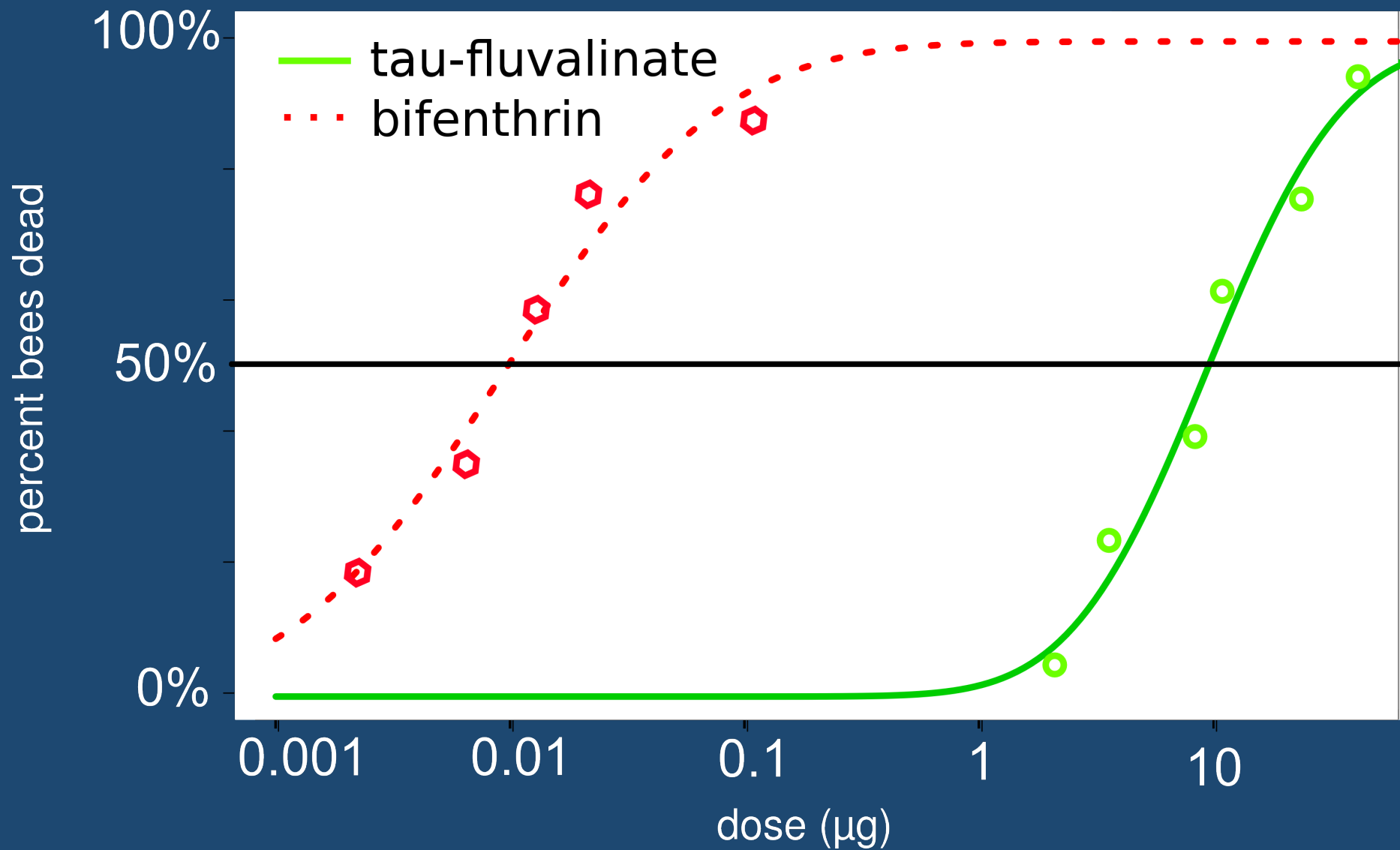
count dead

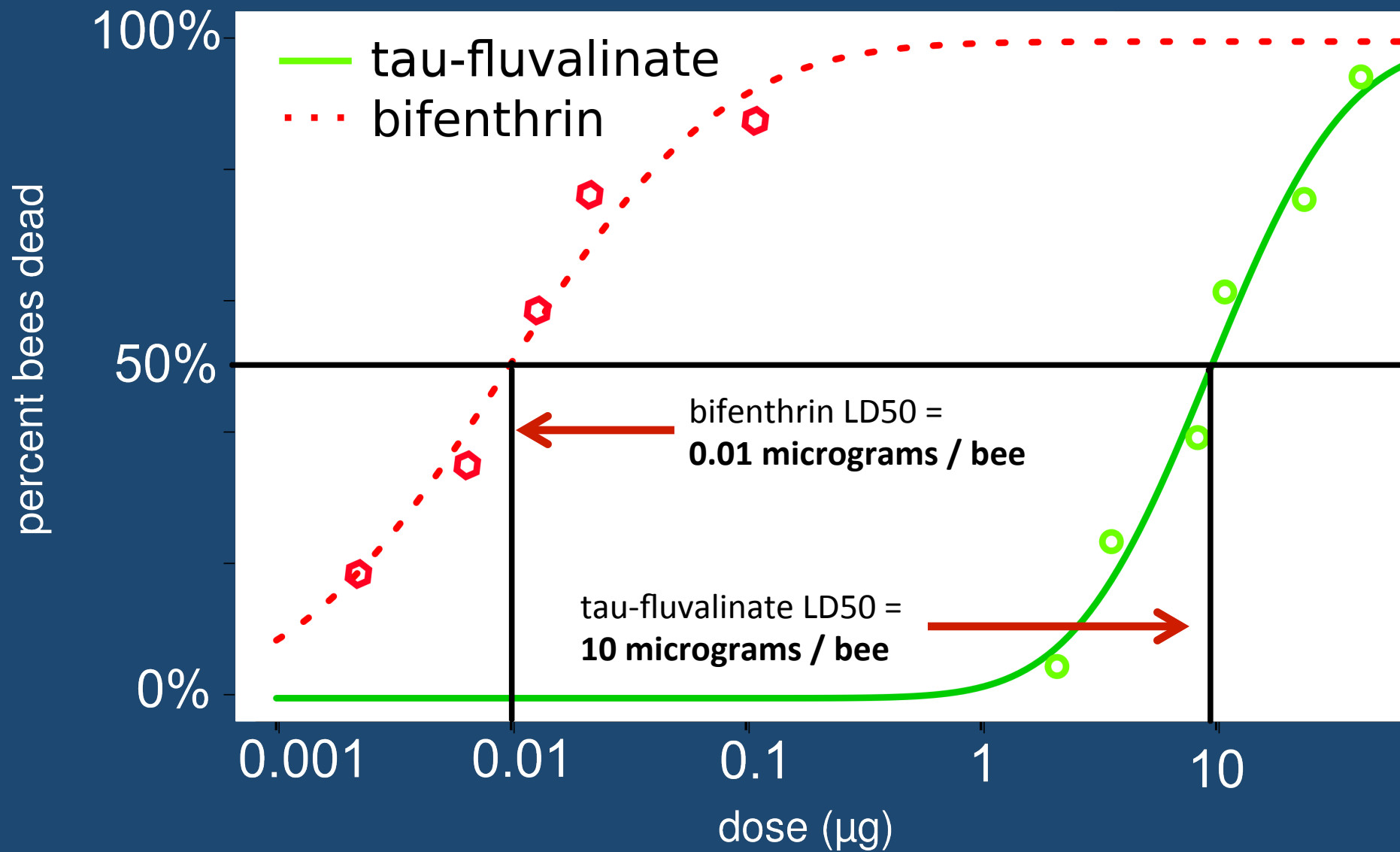












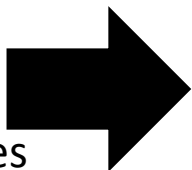
# USEPA and PMRA are now “requiring” 5 LD<sub>50</sub>-style tests for pesticide registration

1. Adult acute topical
2. Adult acute oral (in sugar water)
3. Adult chronic (in sugar water over 10 days)
4. Larval acute (in jelly)
5. Larval chronic – to adulthood (in jelly)

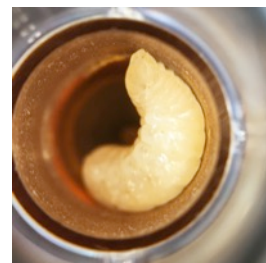
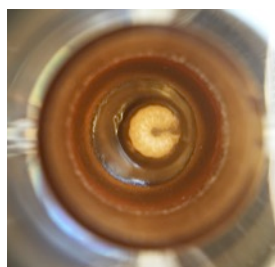
# Larval rearing protocol (acute and chronic)

## Larval Rearing Bioassay (OECD Ring Test Protocol)

Graft young  
larvae from  
brood frames



Tissue culture plates,  
Cells containing diet



Exposure to  
pesticide in diet

adult bee emergence and  
mortality recorded daily





# Wide variability in insecticide toxicity (hazard) to bees

- Some pesticides have low toxicity to bees and can be safely used inside the hive
- Others have high toxicity to bees and should not be used if bees will contact them
- LD<sub>50</sub> is useful for comparing toxicity:

# Lab LD<sub>50</sub> testing

## **Advantages:**

- Reliable and straightforward to compare
- Topical, contact, oral LD<sub>50</sub> (or LC<sub>50</sub>)
- Adults or larvae
- Possible to test workers, queens and drones
- Possible to test other bee species

## **Disadvantages:**

- Does not test **colony-level effects**
- Does not test **long-term** or **sub-lethal** effects

**Risk = Hazard x Exposure**

**LD<sub>50</sub>**

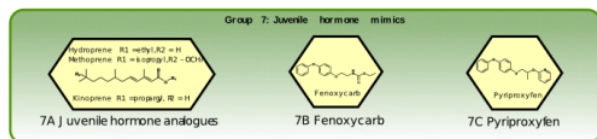
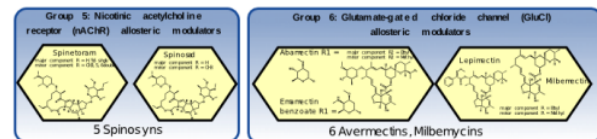
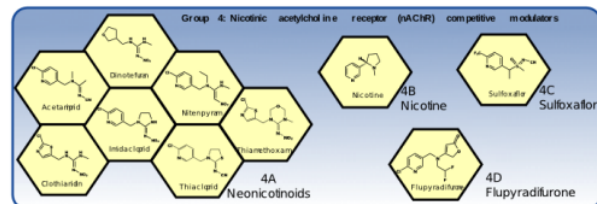
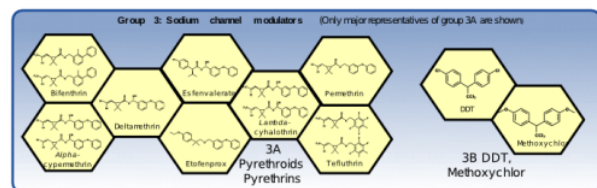
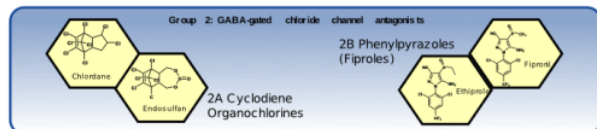
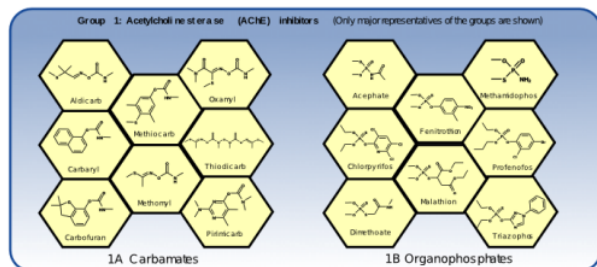
**Formulation**

**Function**

**Label**

**restrictions**

**and Laws**



# Mode of Action Classification

# IRAC

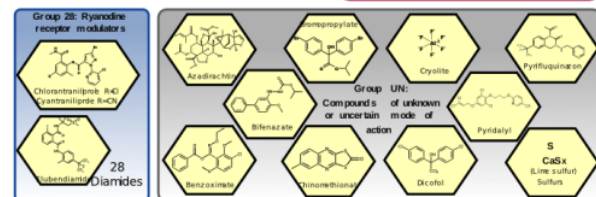
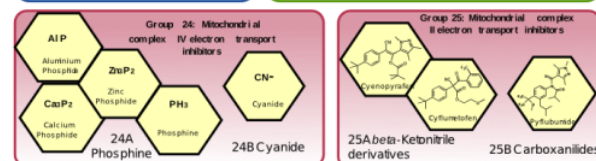
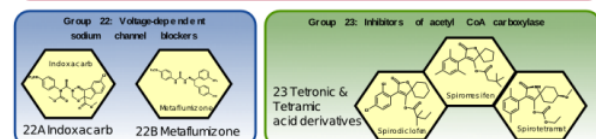
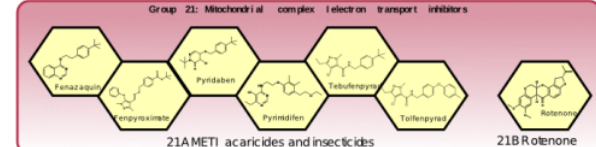
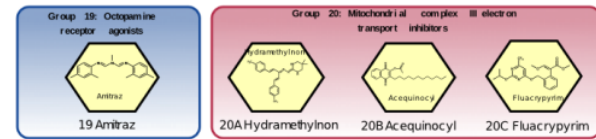
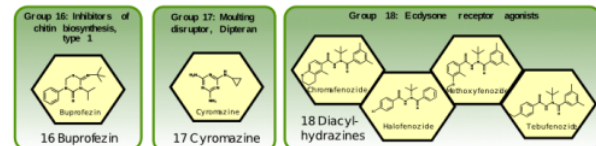
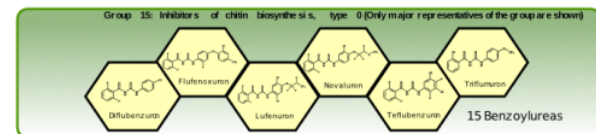
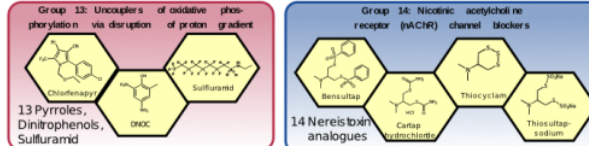
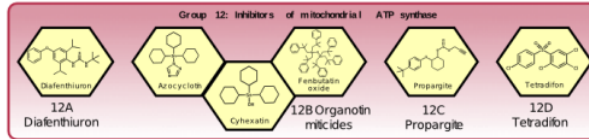
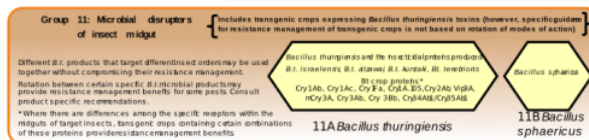
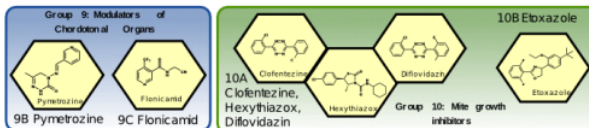
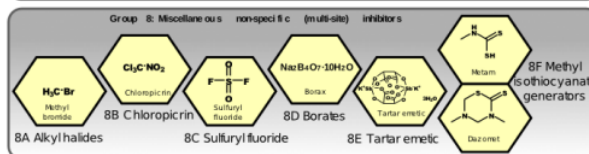
Insecticide Resistance Action Committee

## The Key to Resistance Management

1. Successive generations of a pest should not be treated with compounds from the same MoA group.

2. Not all of the current groupings are based on knowledge of a shared target protein. For further information, please refer to the IRAC Mode of Action Classification document.

3. The color scheme used here associates modes of action into broad categories based on the physiological functions affected, as an aid to understanding symptomology, speed of action and other properties of the insecticide, and not for any resistance management purposes. Rotations for resistance management should be based only on the numbered mode of action groups.



- Nerve & Muscle
- Growth & Development
- Respiration
- Midgut
- Unknown or Non-specific

# The Universe of Insecticides

# Insecticides: Organophosphates

- Nerve action
- Relatively high toxicity to humans

**Lorsban**

Chlorpyrifos  
 $LD_{50} = 0.059$

**Malathion**

Malathion  
 $LD_{50} = 0.20$

**Checkmite+  
(Bayer)**

Coumaphos  
 $LD_{50} = 20.3$



# Insecticides: Carbamates

- Nerve action
- Somewhat toxic to humans

**Temik  
(Bayer)**

Aldicarb  
 $LD_{50} = 0.285$

**Sevin**

Carbaryl  
 $LD_{50} = 1.02$

**Larvin  
(Bayer)**

Thiodicarb  
 $LD_{50} > 25$

# Insecticides: **Pyrethroids**

- Nerve action
- Based on natural product in chrysanthemums
- Relatively safe for humans
- Repellent effect on bees
- Contact toxicity

**Ortho Home  
Defense Max**

Bifenthrin  
 $LD_{50} = 0.015$

**Pyrethrum  
5EC**

Pyrethrum  
 $LD_{50} = 0.02$

**Apistan  
(Wellmark)**

Fluvalinate  
 $LD_{50} = 1.9$

# Insecticides: Neonicotinoids

- Nerve action
- Analogs of nicotine
- relatively safe for humans

**Bayer  
Advanced**

Imidacloprid  
 $LD_{50} = 0.044$

**Safari  
(Valent)**

Dinotefuran  
 $LD_{50} = 0.047$

**Assail**  
(United  
Phosphorus)

Acetamiprid  
 $LD_{50} = 7.07$

# Insecticides: New Relatives of **Neonicotinoids**

**Sivanto  
(Bayer)**

Flupyradifurone  
 $LD_{50} = 122$

**Transform  
(Dow)**

Sulfoxaflor  
 $LD_{50} = 0.13$

# Insecticides: Diamides

- nerve and muscle action
- contact poison
- relatively safe for humans

**Altacor  
(DuPont)**

Chlorantraniliprole  
 $LD_{50} > 100$

**Belt  
(Bayer)**

Flubendiamide  
 $LD_{50} > 200$

**Cyazapyr  
(DuPont)**

Cyantraniliprole  
 $LD_{50} = 0.55$



# Other Insecticides

**Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs):** Diflubenzuron, methoprene

- $LD_{50} > 100$  micrograms / bee to adults
- Cause problems in **brood development**

**Energy metabolism:** Rotenone, fenpyroximate

- $LD_{50}$  **0.024 – 60 micrograms / bee**

**Lipid synthesis inhibitors:** Spirotetramat

- $LD_{50} > 100$  micrograms / bee

# Fungicides

- May be applied during bloom
- Very high exposure is possible
- Can be found in pollen (up to 400 ppm)
- $LD_{50} > 10$  micrograms / bee
- High doses may have effects on brood??

**Captan**

**Rovral**

**Ziram**

# Herbicides

- Kill flowering “weeds” bees on which bees feed
- Bees may be present
- High exposure is possible
- $LD_{50} > 100$  micrograms / bee
- Possible effects at high doses??

**2,4-D**

**Paraquat**

INCLUDES UPDATED INFORMATION

# DEADLY DRUG INTERACTIONS

The Bee's Pharmacy

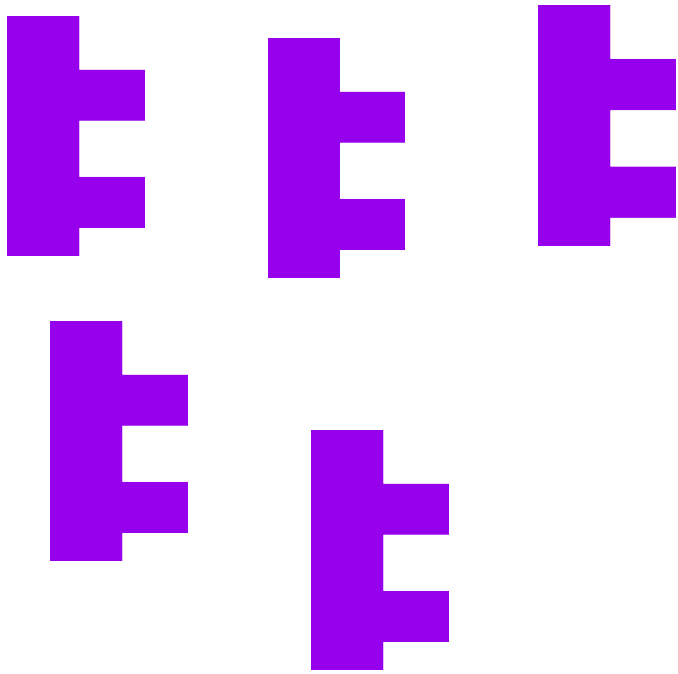
Guide

By the  
authors of the  
multimillion-copy  
#1 bestseller  
*The People's  
Pharmacy*

How to Protect  
Yourself from Harmful  
Drug/Drug, Drug/Food,  
Drug/Vitamin  
Combinations



Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon, Ph.D.



“bee safe”  
insecticide



Cytochrome P450  
monooxygenases  
detoxify





SBI Fungicide

“bee safe”  
insecticide



**Risk = Hazard x Exposure**

**LD<sub>50</sub>**

**Formulation**

**Function**

**Label**

**restrictions**

**and Laws**

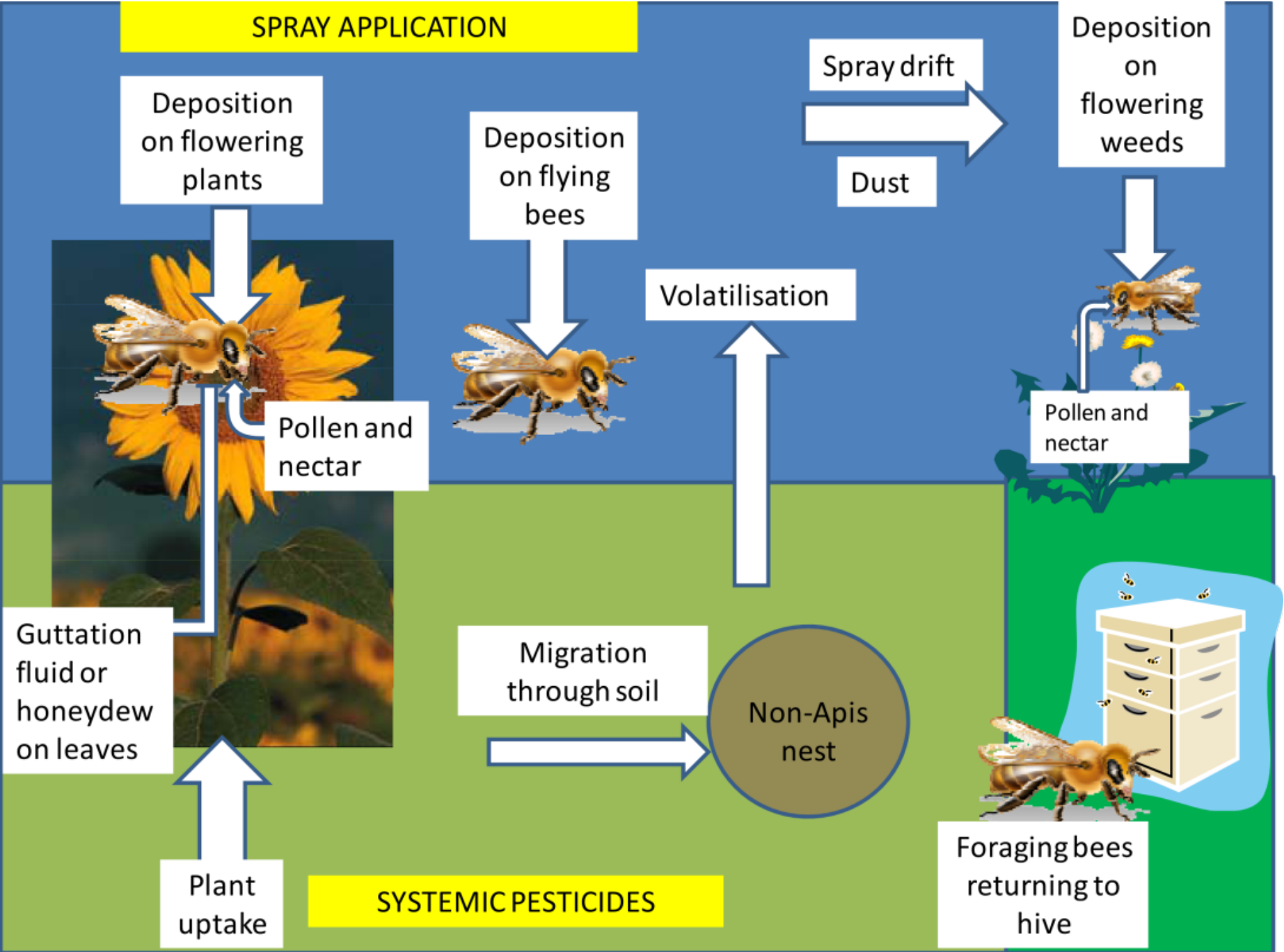
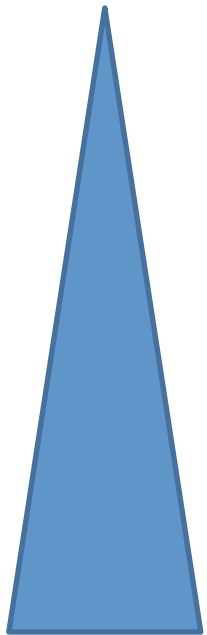


Figure 3.1, "Risk assessment for bees", EFSA, 2012

# Formulation determines bee exposure

better



worse

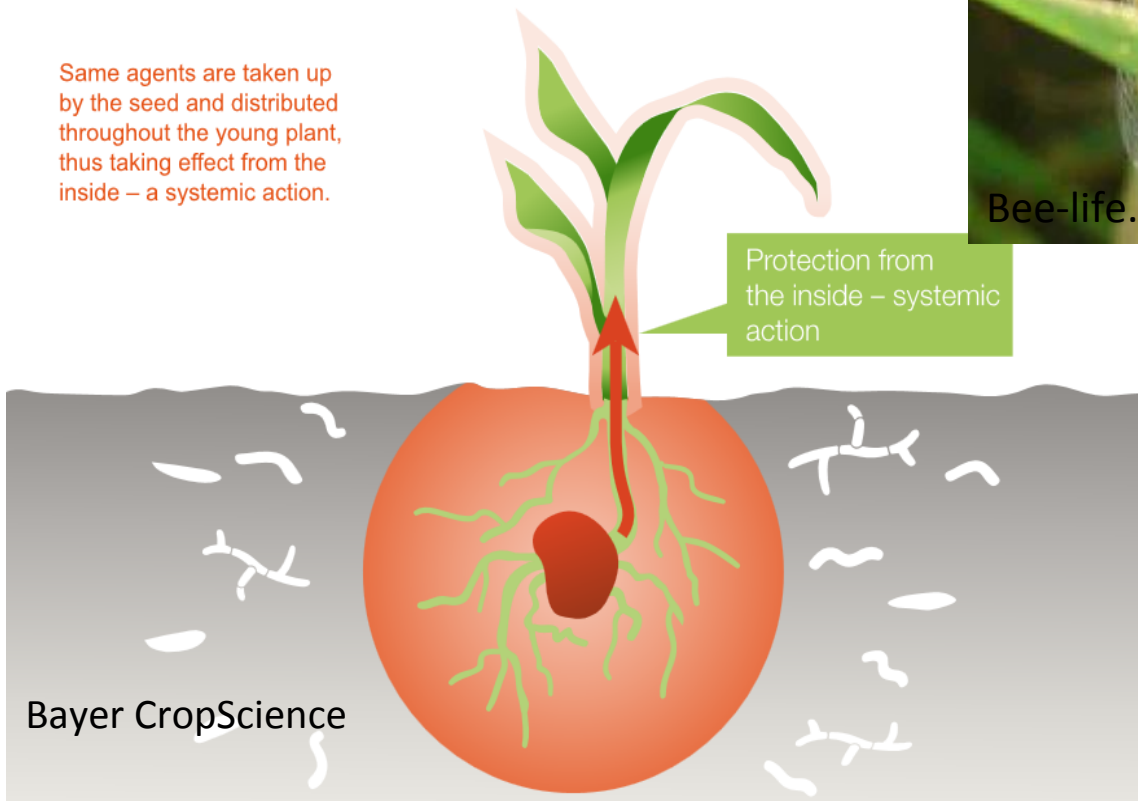
- Impregnated material
- Seed treatment
- Bait
- Granular
- Concentrates / suspensions (spray)
- Wettable powder (spray)
- Dust
- Microencapsulated

# Systemicity determines exposure



Guttation water  
Pollen  
Nectar

Same agents are taken up by the seed and distributed throughout the young plant, thus taking effect from the inside – a systemic action.



Bayer CropScience

Bee-life.eu



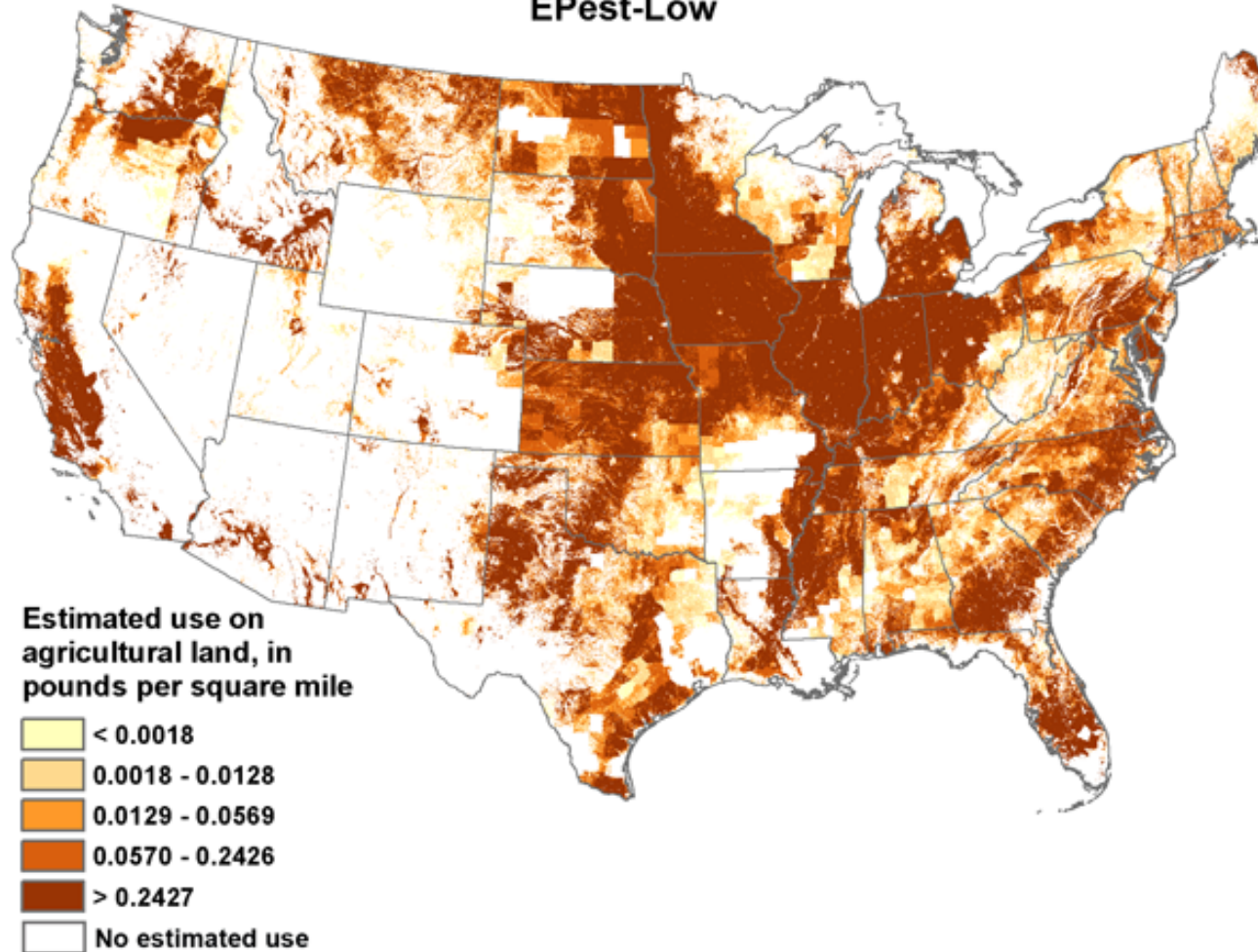
Purdue Extension



# Where are pesticides used?

Estimated Agricultural Use for Imidacloprid , 2011

EPest-Low



<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pnsp/usage/maps/>

# Label restrictions determine bee exposure

INNOVA BIFENTHRIN 100 MITICIDE/INSECTICIDE  
Approved Label Text

16 October 2007  
Page 1 of 12

## POISON

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN  
READ SAFETY DIRECTIONS BEFORE OPENING OR USING



### Bifenthrin 100

MITICIDE / INSECTICIDE

ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 100 g/L BIFENTHRIN  
SOLVENT: 763 g/L LIQUID HYDROCARBONS

GROUP	<b>3A</b>	INSECTICIDE
-------	-----------	-------------

*For the control of Helicoverpa spp in Cotton, Tomatoes, Lucerne Seed Crops, Navy Beans; Carpophilus Beetle in Stone Fruit (except Cherries); certain species of mites in Bananas, Cotton and Tomatoes; Longtailed Mealy Bug in Pears; Banana Weevil Borer and Banana Rust Thrips in Bananas; Mirids in Cotton; Whitefly in Tomatoes; Redlegged Earth Mite, Blue Oat Mite, Bryobia Mite, Webworm and Brown Pasture Looper in Faba Beans, Subterranean Clover, Clover, Canola, Wheat, Barley, Field Peas, Lupins and Lucerne; certain species of Wireworms in Cotton and Sugarcane; and Fig Longicorn in Grapes and Citrus Leafeating Weevil in Citrus as per the Directions for Use*

**IMPORTANT:** Read the attached booklet before use

**20 LITRES**

Syngenta Crop Protection Pty Limited  
Level 1, 2-4 Lyonpark Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113

In a transport emergency dial 000, Police or Fire Brigade  
For specialist advice in an emergency only,  
call 1800 033 111 (24 hours)

APVMA Approval No: 62211/20/0707  
lb0807



**PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK**  
Dangerous to bees. **DO NOT** spray any plants in flower when bees are foraging. Spray in the early morning when bees are not actively foraging.

# Application rate determines bee exposure

## CUCURBITS (PHI – 3 Days)

chayote (fruit), Chinese waxgourd (Chinese preserving melon), citron melon, cucumber, gherkin, gourd, edible (includes hyotan, cucuzza), (*Luffa spp.*) (includes hechima, Chinese okra), (*Momordica spp.*), (includes balsam apple, balsam pear, bitter melon, Chinese cucumber) muskmelon (hybrids and/or cultivars of *Cucumis melo*, includes: true cantaloupe, cantaloupe, casaba, Crenshaw melon, golden pershaw melon, honeydew melon, honey balls, mango melon, Persian melon, pineapple melon, Santa Claus melon, snake melon), pumpkin (*Cucurbita spp.*), summer squash (includes: crookneck squash, scallop squash, straightneck squash, vegetable marrow, zucchini), winter squash (includes: butternut squash, calabaza, Hubbard squash (*C. mixta*; *C. pepo*) includes acorn squash, spaghetti squash), watermelon (includes hybrids and or varieties of *Citrullis spp.*)

PEST	RATE	APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS
aphids armyworms cabbage looper corn earworm cucumber beetles cutworm grasshopper leafhoppers melonworm pickleworm plant bug rindworm squash bugs squash vine borer stink bugs tobacco budworm	2.6 to 6.4 fl. oz. per acre (0.04 to 0.1 lb. ai per acre)	For spray applications, cover foliage with sufficient water to provide thorough, uniform coverage and distribution of spray mixture. For ground applications, use a minimum of 20 gallons of spray mixture per acre. For air applications, use a minimum of 5 gallons of spray mixture per acre. Use of emulsified oil (1 to 2 quarts) is allowed to replace some of the volume of water in the spray mixture. Do not apply more than 0.3 lb. ai (19.2 ounces formulated) per acre per season. Do not make more than two applications after bloom. Do not make applications less than 7 days apart.
Banks grass mite Carmine mite <i>Lygus spp.</i> two-spotted spider mite whitefly	5.12 to 6.4 fl. oz. per acre (0.08 to 0.1 lb. ai per acre)	

Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) of 1947, revised 1972, 1988, 1996



“unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.”

Risk analysis of environmental effects includes a **cost-benefit analysis**

Not the same as the **“precautionary principle”** used in the European Union

$$\text{Risk Quotient (RQ)} = \frac{\text{Exposure (lb. a.i. / acre)}}{\text{LD}_{50} (\mu\text{g} / \text{bee})}$$

Level of Concern (LOC) reached when  $\text{RQ} > 0.4$

Historically, reduces mortality to 10%

**Pollinator Risk Assessment Framework Agency  
White Paper, US EPA, 2012**



# Big Changes in Regulatory Risk Assessment



**FIGURE 1.** Portion of apiary, at edge of citrus grove, killed by pesticide application to blooming citrus tree. Only three colonies out of 120 survived. (*Photo by E.L. Atkins*).

## Old Protection Goal: Stop Bee Kills

# **New Pollinator Protection Goals:**

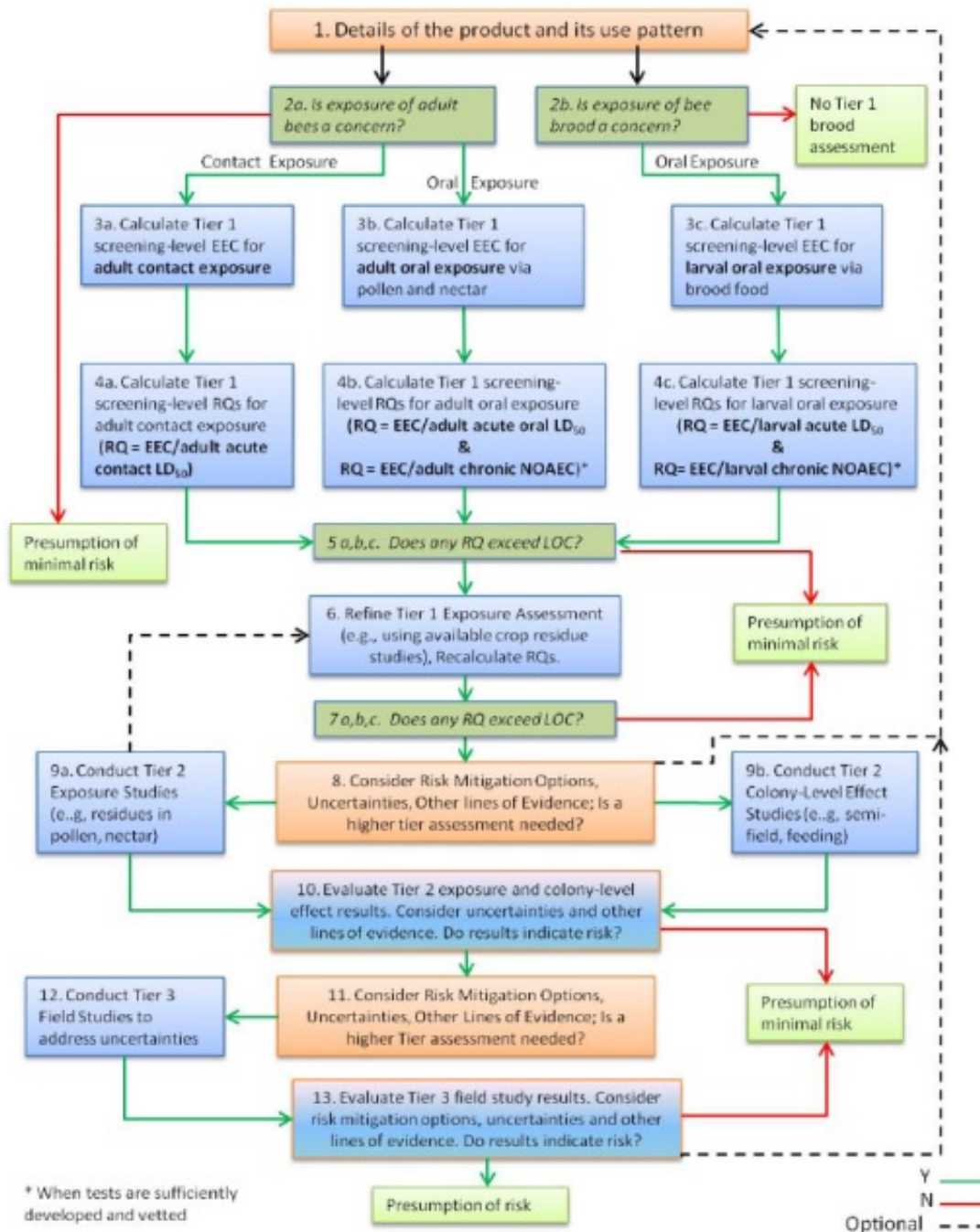
- 1. Delivery of pollination services**
- 2. Production of honey and hive products**
- 3. Biodiversity of pollinators**

**EPA: Pollinator Risk Assessment Framework Agency White Paper, US EPA, 2012.**

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0543-0004>

**EFSA: Scientific Opinion on the science behind the development of a risk assessment of Plant Protection Products on bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees), EFSA, 2012.**

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2668.htm>



Tier 1: Laboratory studies on adults and larvae

Tier 2: Semi-field studies with whole colonies in tents

Tier 3: Full field studies with treated crop

# Harmonized Pesticide Risk Assessment for USEPA and PMRA

[Environmental Topics](#)[Laws & Regulations](#)[About EPA](#)

## Pollinator Protection

[CONTACT US](#)[SHARE](#)[Pollinator Protection Home](#)[Pollinator Health Concerns](#)[— Colony Collapse Disorder](#)[— Factors Affecting  
Pollinator Health](#)[— Risk Assessment](#)[— EPA Actions to Protect  
Pollinators](#)[— Partners in Pollinator  
Protection](#)[What You Can Do](#)[— Report Bee Kills](#)[— Best Management  
Practices](#)

## Pollinator Risk Assessment Guidance

The EPA's Pollinator Risk Assessment Guidance is part of a long-term strategy to advance the science of assessing the risks posed by pesticides to bees, giving risk managers the means to further improve pollinator protection in our regulatory decisions. Among other things, the EPA anticipates the guidance will allow the Agency to assess effects from systemic pesticides quantitatively on individual bees as well as on bee colonies. This guidance is an outgrowth of the [2012 FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel Meeting on Risk Assessment for Bees](#).

You may need Adobe Reader to view files on this page. See EPA's [About PDF page](#) to learn more.

- [Guidance for Assessing Pesticide Risks to Bees \(PDF\)](#) (59 pp, 2 MB)
- [Guidance on Exposure and Effects Testing for Assessing Risks to Bees \(PDF\)](#) (44 pp, 1 MB)



**Join the Conversation about Native Bees**

**What's the buzz?**

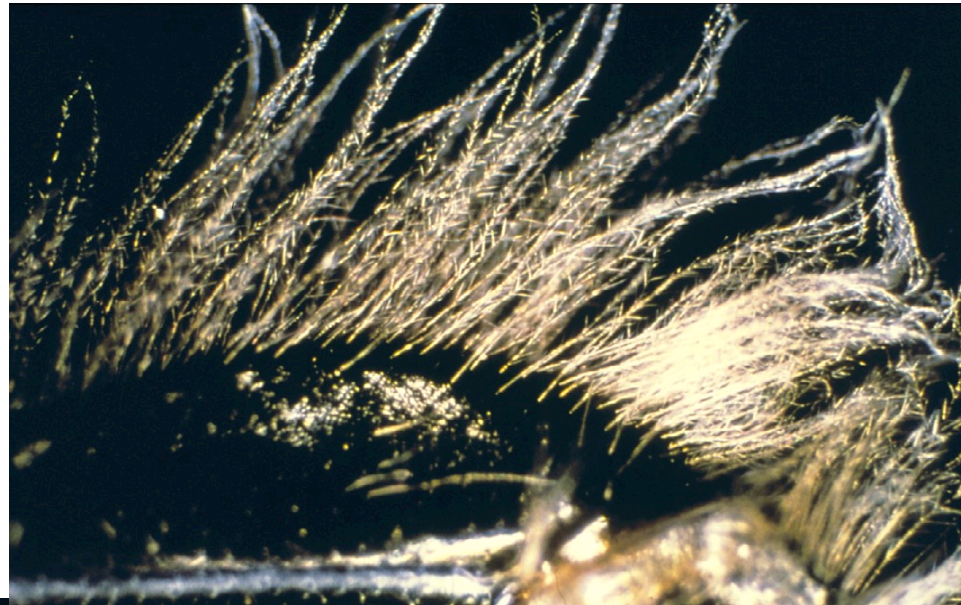
North America has over 4,400 described species of native bees\* that pollinate wildflowers and crops. From the tiny *Pedicularis* to the substantial carpenter bee (*Cyloceria venusta*), these local pollinators are hard at work in the floral landscapes of gardens, farms, forests, grasslands and urban and wild lands. Unfortunately, several species of native bees are showing disturbing signs of decline. Learn more about these colorful pollinators and how you can support them at [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

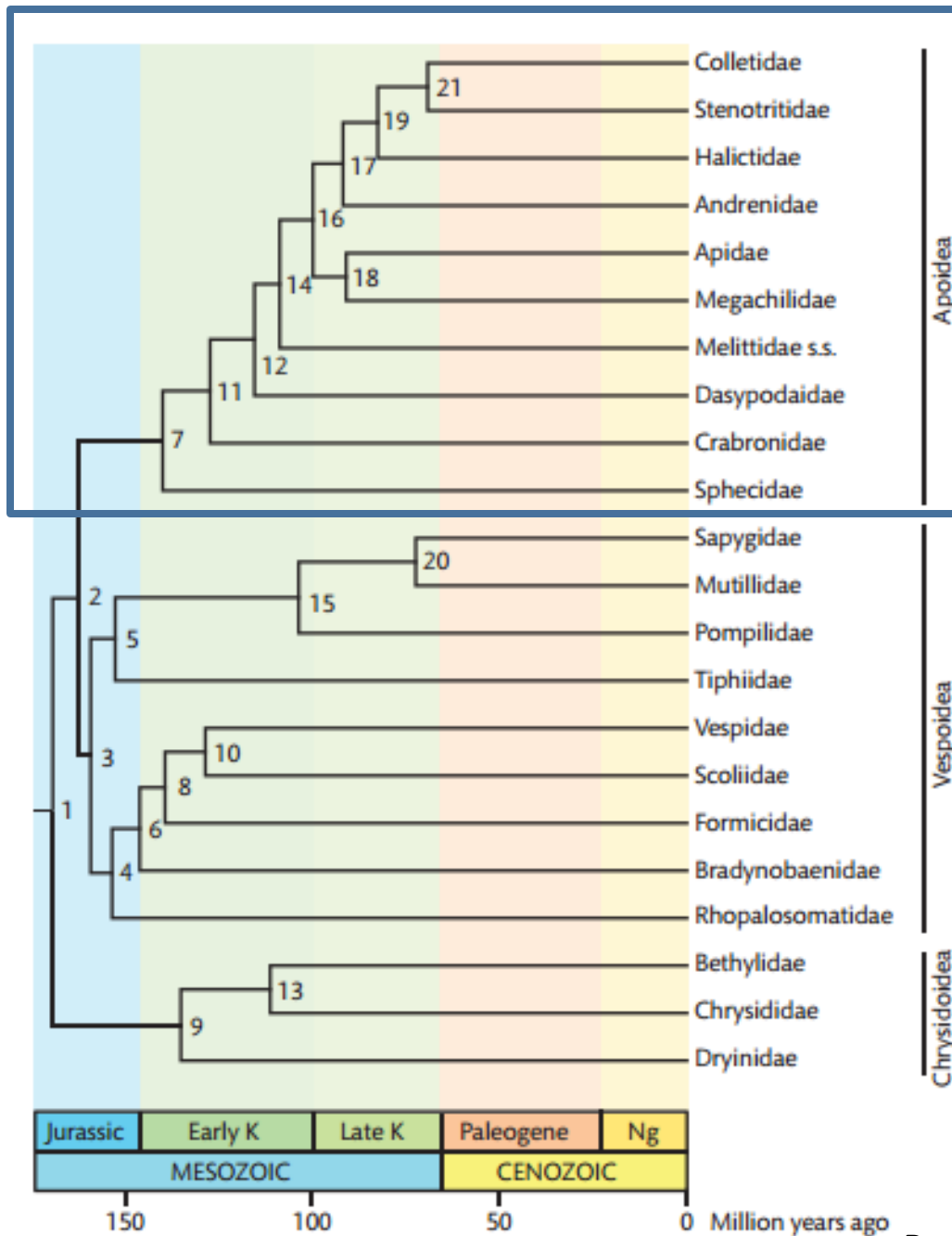
\*Source: National Wildlife Federation, 2010



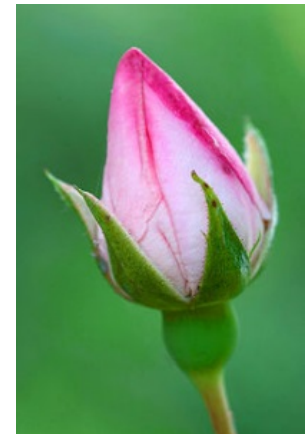
**All bees eat  
pollen and  
nectar**

**Branched body  
hair is  
adaptation for  
pollen  
collection**

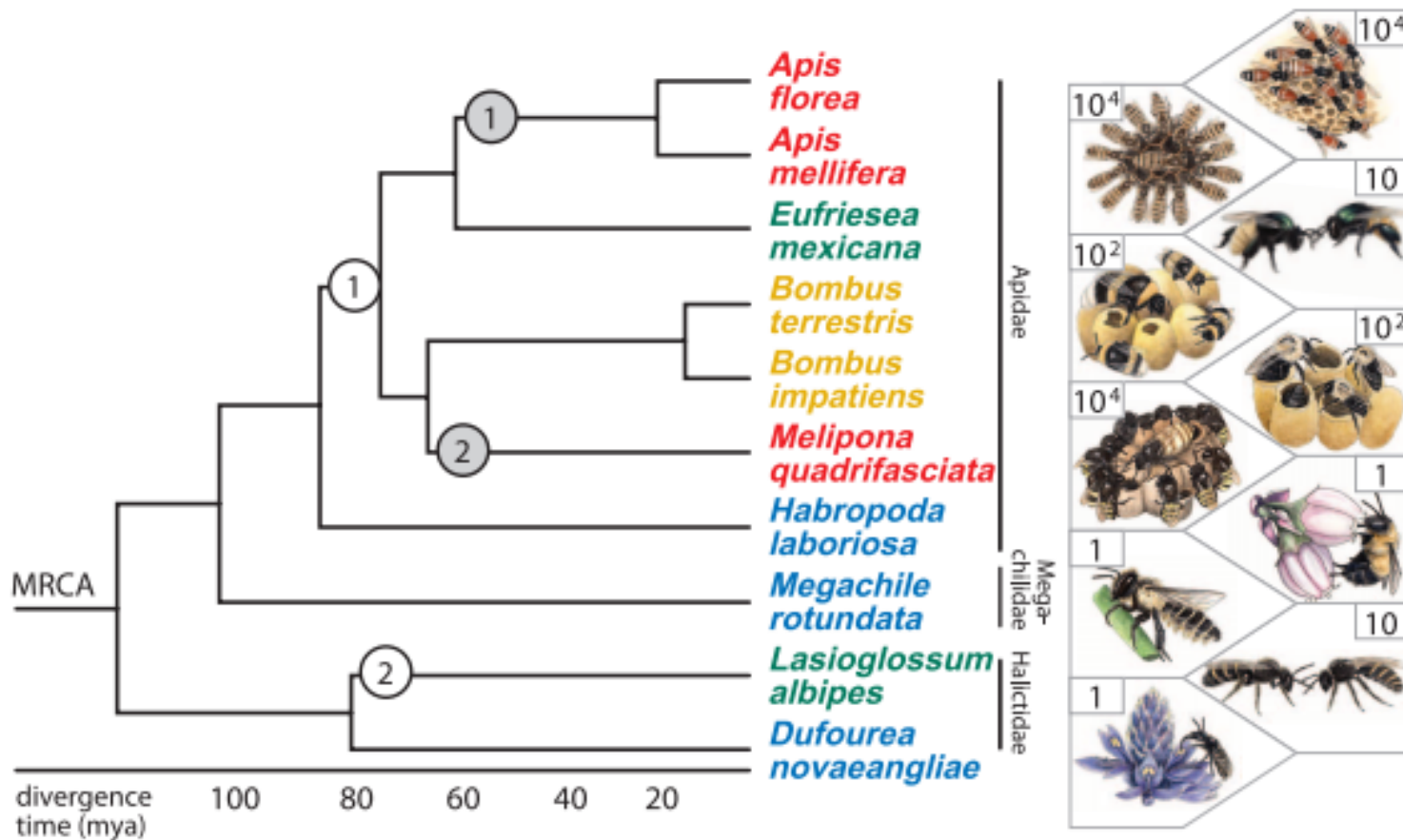




Bees are wasps  
that eat nectar  
and pollen.  
Coevolved with  
flowering plants  
~100 mya



# 10 bee genomes sequenced



Similar  
detox  
gene  
repertoire  
across bee  
species  
(~50 P450s)

Kapheim et al., Science, 2015

# Considerable similarity among bees when acute toxicity is adjusted for mass

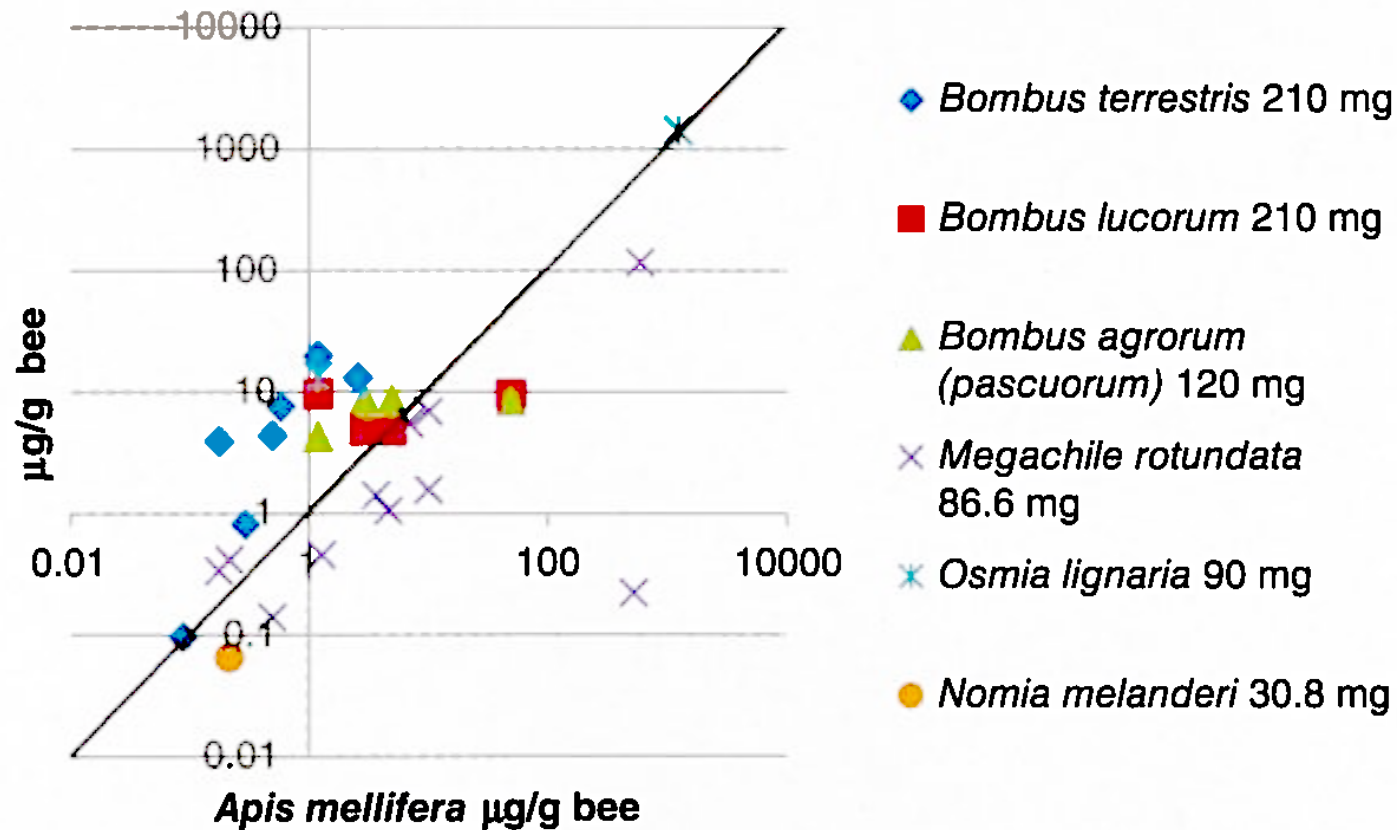


Figure 8.1, Fischer and Moriarty, 2014

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Hazard} \times \text{Exposure}$$

Variation in  
pesticide  
sensitivity



$$\text{Risk} = \text{Hazard} \times \text{Exposure}$$

Differences in  
biology lead to  
differences in  
exposure

# Seasonality: When are bees active?

species	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Agapostemon sericeus							
Agapostemon virescens							
Andrena sp.							
Anthidium oblongatum							
Augochlora pura							
Augochlorella aurata							
Calliopsis andreniformis							
Ceratina calcarata							
Ceratina dupla							
Ceratina strenua							
Colletes sp.?							
Colletes inaequalis							
Halictus confusus							
Halictus ligatus							
Halictus rubicundus							
Holcopasites heliopsis							
Hoplitis producta							
Hylaeus affinis							
Lasioglossum bruneri							
Lasioglossum callidum							
Lasioglossum coriaceum							
Lasioglossum cressoni							
Lasioglossum foveolatum							
Lasioglossum illinoense							
Lasioglossum imitatum							

Most activity in spring and early summer, but some species may be active throughout the season

J. Wallace, unpublished

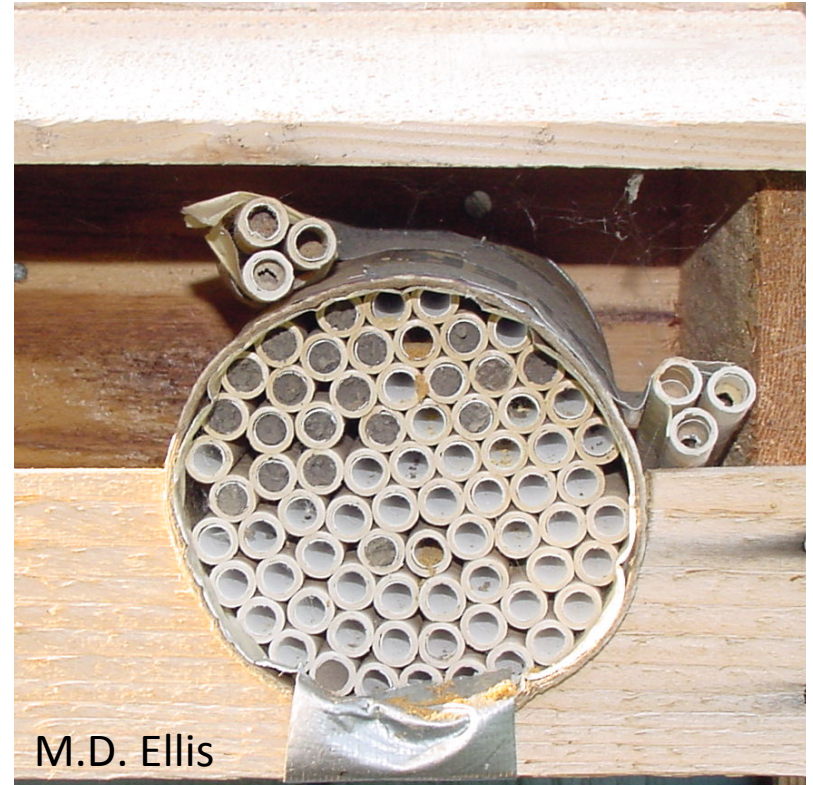
# Nest Site – Ground Nesters



Alkali bee

Bumble bee

# Nest Site – Stem/Cavity Nesters





# Stem nesters – cell arrangement

Plug

Male cells

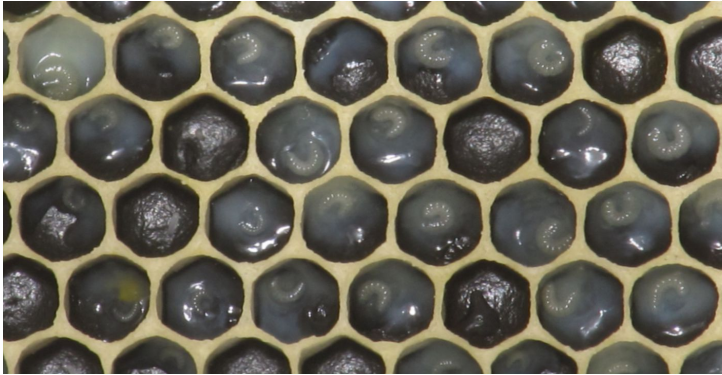
Female cells





# Larval Feeding

## Progressive provisioning



*Apis* spp. – “jelly” secretions from adults



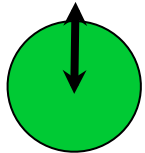
*Bombus* spp.  
Pollen and  
nectar

## Mass provisioning



Larva provisioned with ball of  
pollen and nectar sufficient to  
complete development

# Foraging Range



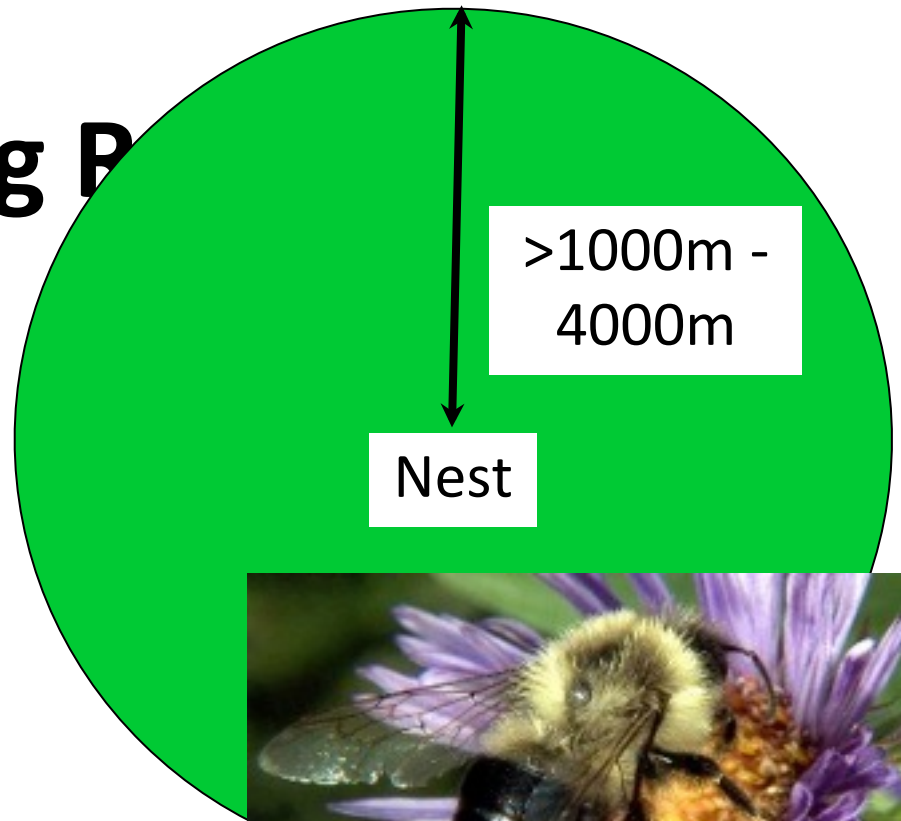
100m - 400m



3 mm

Big bee = big foraging  
range

Small bee = small  
foraging range



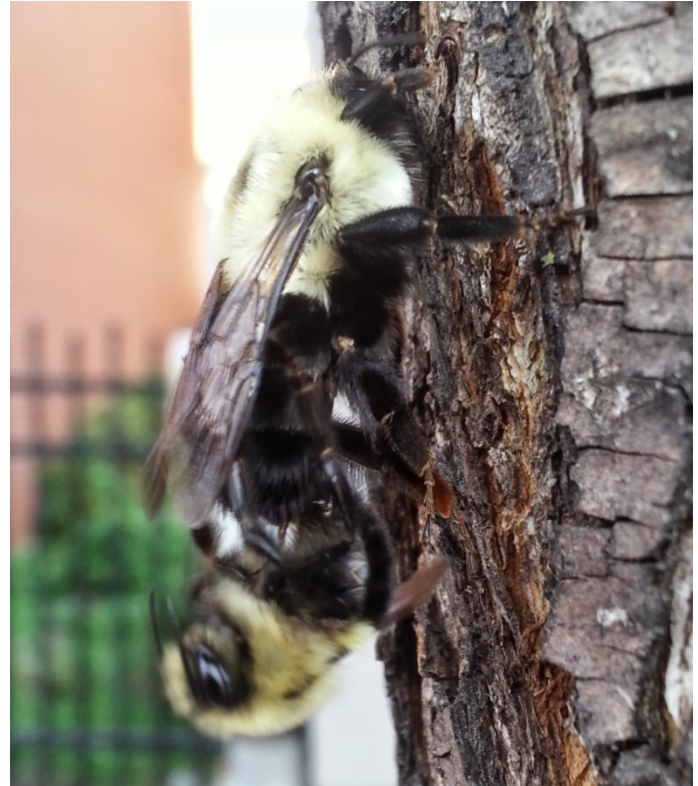
15-20 mm

# Floral Specialization

Squash Bee – a specialist on cucurbits



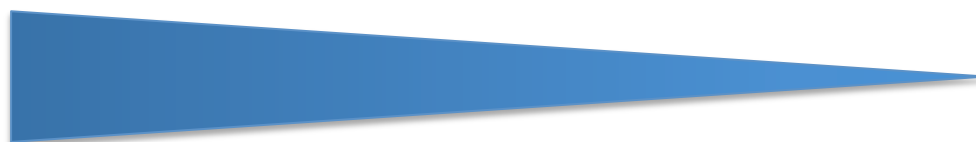
M. Spring



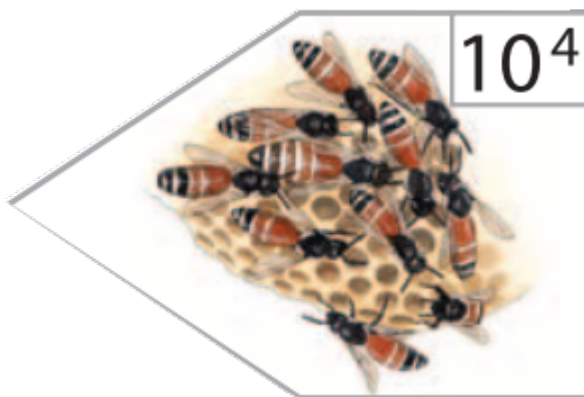
Common Eastern Bumble Bee – a broad generalist

# Sociality

obligate  
complex  
eusociality



solitary



Kapheim et al., Science, 2015

## Sociality changes exposure



### **Suggested reading:**

1. Atkins E (1992) Injury to honey bees by poisoning. The Hive and the Honey Bee. Hamilton, IL: Dadant & Sons, Inc. pp. 1153–1208.
2. How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides PNW 591, A Pacific Northwest Extension Publication. 2016.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw591>

3. Pesticide Risk Assessment for Pollinators: Executive Summary from SETAC. 2011

<http://www.setac.org/node/265>

4. USEPA Pollinator Risk Assessment Guidance

<https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/pollinator-risk-assessment-guidance>

### **Information about specific pesticides:**

US EPA Ecotox Databases

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/ecotox/>

Insecticide Resistance Action Committee Mode of Action Guide

<http://www.irac-online.org>

PMRA Label database

<http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/ls-re/index-eng.php>