



SBA – Dundee University Research Collaboration: Overwinter Survey: Spring 2017

We wish to continue the annual surveys of overwinter losses that we began in 2012 and report back to the membership when all the data for 2016-17 is analysed. In addition, an overall analysis will be performed by independent experts on data produced over all 6 years (impact of geographical location, weather, forage availability and reported Varroa load) to inform on general regional variations and emerging trends (if any) over this period.

Your help will be greatly appreciated as the more returns that we have the more reliable the data will be. Previous analysis by professional geographers at Dundee, using a subset of this growing dataset indicated the impact of two stressors. The first was increased rainfall (from the expected average for each area) and secondly, intensive land use. Using the combined data from 2011-2017 will provide a more complete assessment of these stressors on honeybees in Scotland. In addition, given the ban on the three major neonicotinoids (for use on bee visited crops) in December 2013, we will be able to compare colony overwintering loss rates before (3 years; 2011-2014) and after (2 years; 2014-2016) the restriction of their use on bee visited crops.

All data will be held in strictest confidence and no personal details released. Any use of data will not bear individual identification as correlations will be made to landscape type, weather conditions or varroa levels. Contact details are requested in case we need to verify any data submitted. Full postal code information is essential for accurate geographical attribution of weather conditions and land use.

The completed 1 page form should be returned to the address below:

**Dr C N Connolly,
Medical Research Institute (Division of Neuroscience,
MAIL BOX 6,
University of Dundee, DD1 9SY.**

Or if electronic document to c.n.connolly@dundee.ac.uk

**** MARK AS “Spring 2017 Survey”**

NAME:	
Contact details: Email, address or tel. No.	
Full post code of apiary*	

*Please use your main apiary (even if taken to heather for a while)

1. Please record the number of colonies for the apiary in the boxes below.

Number of colonies November 2016	Number of surviving colonies March/April 2017	How many of these surviving colonies are very weak * March/April 2017

*colonies that may dwindle and die or have to be united; if they survive are unlikely to be productive in the coming season.

2. Reasons for losses (tick, and where known, state number of colonies for each):

No queen/brood (old queen?)	Starvation	Disease (state which)	Varroa	Unknown/Other

Further information on losses:

3. Please mark below to record Varroa mite load for apiary.

Varroa mite load for apiary 2016	
Heavy (problem)	
Medium (controlled)	
Light (no treatment needed)	
None	
Don't know	

4. What is the predominant habitat(s) for your apiary? (Tick all that apply).

Type of forage	Crop	Diversity of forage
Unmanaged, wild	OSR	Excellent
Commercial crop	Maize	Reasonable
Garden	Soft fruit	Poor
Local council verges/trees	Potatoes	Very poor
Taken to heather	Wildflower field margins	Don't know

Comments on land use (Forage or pesticide use):

Further information for those interested:

1. Please provide your full postcode as this will allow a fine scale assessment of exposure risk (to weather, disease, crops and pesticides). This post code will never be released. All data will be merged by region or similarity in landscape to help identify potential risks.
2. This is a simple measure of overall winter survival rates of full colonies (not min-nucs).
3. We need to know how good the forage is for your bees as this is a major risk. A poor diet can make bees vulnerable to disease, weather or pesticide exposure. Therefore, your overall assessment of the quality of forage would be very helpful.
4. Varroa (and the viruses it transmits) is an important threat to the condition of colonies. So we need to correlate their levels with colony losses.

We have provided a word and pdf format of the form so that you can choose which is more convenient for you. Again, you may either email or post the form back. Perhaps local associations could coordinate the posting of forms to save on postage?