

Pests of the Honey bee



Tracheal mites
Photo: USDA

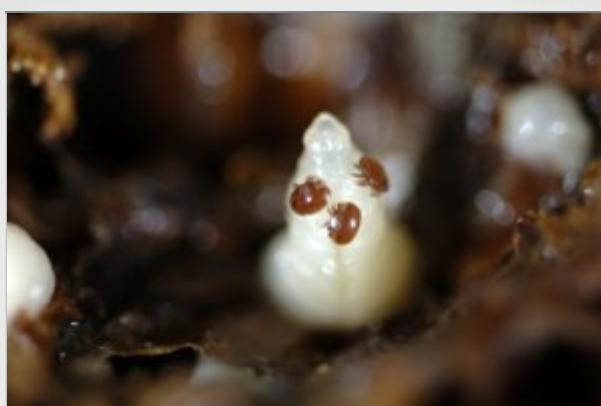
Tracheal Mites

The bee's breathing tubes become infested with tiny mites. Bees cannot fly very well and lots will be seen crawling around on the ground outside the hive.

Varroa Mites

Common in every colony. Look for tiny red brown crab like mites, on adult bees and within capped brood cells, especially drone cells. Lots of varroa in the hive means bees are being born in a weak or deformed state and they are also open to viral infections All this can cause mean the end of the colony! .

Carry out regular checks on varroa mite drop and apply an antivarroa treatment if the drop count is 7 or more a day.



Honey bee prepupa with varroa mites
Photo: CSIRO



Small hive beetle
Photo: CSIRO

Small Hive Beetle

Small hive beetle, not yet found in the U.K. but a serious pest of honeybees. Report to FERA alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk if you see this.

Wasps

Can be a real nuisance robbing hives in July, August and September. Reduce entrances to allow just 2 or 3 bees to pass each other. Set up wasp traps outside the apiary.



Common wasp
Photo: Trounce



Wax moth

Wax moths

There are two types of wax moth. It is the larvae of these moths that cause damage to combs by eating their way through them. This is a particular problem for weak or sick colonies.