
Preface

Many people enjoy hobbies simply to relax or, in some cases, perhaps use them as ways to make extra money to support their avocation. Most of them will readily admit that part of the joy of their outside activity is learning about it, becoming an expert in the field, and delving deep into the wells of knowledge that surround every worthwhile pursuit. Beekeepers are constantly peppered with information about their hives, bees, parasites, diseases, and all types of management techniques from numerous experts at all levels. They are also inundated by questions from caring and well-meaning non-beekeepers. Part of the problem from all sides of this issue then is having quality, up-to-date information to use in both beekeeping and public events. Naturally, there is plenty of anecdotal information about everything and lots of opinions. It is sometimes said that if you ask five beekeepers a question you will certainly get ten answers and seven opinions. We have faced these same issues both as beekeepers and as scientists.

In assembling *Beekeeping — From Science to Practice*, we attempted to find some of the best most active scientists currently studying honeybees worldwide. We asked them to provide information not only on their personal research areas but also clear precise generalized information that would benefit beekeepers. While this current book is by no means comprehensive, it does present diverse chapters discussing problems with Queen rearing, developing diseases, pests, pesticides, epidemiology, and the value of products (i.e., propolis) and even aspects of newly developing strains of European Honeybees. Bees are declining, and the reasons are complex, but with the information in this work, beekeepers will better understand the intricacies of this highly social insect and what we know right now. In turn, we hope the information will help beekeepers keep their bees healthy and thriving in the face of the huge challenges from today's world. We and the scientists who agreed to contribute to this book hope that a better understanding will also allow us to all to comprehend and solve the challenges that all pollinators will face in the coming decades. Also in assembling this material, we tried to concentrate on providing some in-depth coverage of issues that are often only mentioned in general honeybee manuals, and in a couple of cases, we included some straight scientific information that while not directly usable in an apiary may well lead to new methods (and bees) in the not too distant future.

We have had an exceptional time assembling these authors, reading their chapters, and learning many new things ourselves. We hope that you the reader benefit from these insights as much as we did. We also hope this information will be useful to you and will help your beekeeping operations.

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