



Eva Crane Trust

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TITLE: Mites infesting honeybees in Asia

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Beekeeping round the World

Mites infesting honeybees in Asia

For many years there have been reports of damage to brood and bees in honeybee colonies in tropical Asia, the cause being unknown, or unrecognized. Since 1961 several mites infesting brood or adults of different species of honeybee have been identified and studied, and it now seems likely that much of the severe damage reported earlier in China, the Philippines and elsewhere was due to mites, especially *Varroa jacobsonii* and *Tropilaelaps clareae*. Three new reports appear in this issue of *Bee World*; two provide the first evidence of *T. clareae* infesting *Apis dorsata*, and one is the first account from Vietnam, where both mites have now been found on *Apis mellifera*. A third mite, *Neocypholaelaps*, is unlikely to be harmful to bees; it is probably a pollen feeder, whose females get transported from one flower to another by clinging on to foraging bees. Little is yet known about *Aceosejus*, still another mite found in hives.

With so many "new" mites, and four species of honeybees, the situation is confusing, especially as not all authors make it clear to which species of bee (or mite) they refer, and not all secondary reports agree with primary ones. The table on p. 114 should help readers to follow what is (and is not) so far established. I hope that it may also encourage those who live in, or visit, the less well documented countries to search for mites on all available honeybee species: nothing seems to be known yet about infestation of *Apis florea*, for instance. The *Acarapis* mites are not included in the table, since their identity has been longer established, and there is no likelihood of confusion between them and the others. News has, however, just been received of a new species more closely related to them, *Tarsonemus indoapis*; this has been identified on adult *Apis indica*, where it may possibly live in the posterior tentorial pits.

Original reports are cited wherever possible in the list which follows below; reference is made to the three accompanying notes for full details of publications given there, to avoid repetition.

Key to references

- B68 BHARADWAJ (1968) : new report, on page 115
 DB61 DELFINADO & BAKER (1961) see page 115; *A.A.* 866/63
 D63 DELFINADO (1963) see page 115; *A.A.* 636/64
 G51 GUNTER, C. E. M. (1951) A mite from a beehive on Singapore Island (Acarina : Laelaptidae). *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 76(3/4) : 155-157
 G67 GUPTA, G. A. (1967) *Varroa jacobsonii*: a mite of *Apis indica*. *Bee Wld* 48(1) : 17-18 *A.A.* 70/68
 K67 KSHIRSAGAR, K. K. (1967) Mites on the Indian honeybee. *Bee Wld* 48(3) : 84-85 *A.A.* 71/68
 KP66 KSHIRSAGAR, K. K. & PERCY, A. P. (1966) Further observations on the mites of Indian honeybee *Apis indica* in Kodaikanal. *Indian Bee J.* 28(1) : 25-26 *A.A.* 68/68
 K65 KULIKOV, N. S. (1965) [Varroosis of bees.] *Pchelovodstvo* 85(11) : 15-16 *A.A.* 311/66
 LM68 LAIGO & MORSE (1968) : new report, on page 116

- L68 LINDQUIST, E. E. (1968) An unusual new species of *Tarsonemus* (Acarina : Tarsonemidae) associated with the Indian honey bee. *Canad. Ent.* 100(9) : 1002-1006
- M62 MICHAEL (1962) see page 115; *A.A.* 867/63
- O04 OUDEMANS, A. C. (1904) *Acarologische Aanteekeningen XII. Ent. Ber., Amst.* 1(18) : 160-164
 ——— On a new genus and species of parasitic Acari. *Notes Leyden Mus.* 24 : 216-222
- P67 PANDEY, R. S. (1967) *Varroa jacobsonii* : a new mite infesting honeybee (*Apis indica*) colonies in India. *Bee Wld* 48(1) : 16 only *A.A.* 69/68
- PK64 PERCY & KSHIRSAGAR (1964) see page 118; *A.A.* 312/66
- S63 SEVILLA (1963) see page 118; *A.A.* 572/68
- S68 STEPHEN (1968) : new report, on page 119

	<i>Varroa jacobsonii</i>	<i>Tropilaelaps clareae</i>	<i>Aceosejus</i> sp.	<i>Neocypholaelaps indica</i>	<i>Tarsonemus indoapis</i>
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Philippines D63, S63, LM68 Hong Kong D63 Far-East U.S.S.R. K65 China? K65 ³ Vietnam S68	Philippines DB61 ¹ , M62, D63, S63, LM68 Hong Kong DB61 Vietnam S68 India S68	Philippines S63	—	—
<i>A. cerana/ indica</i>	Java O/04 Malaya ² G51 India P67, G67, K67 Far East U.S.S.R. K65 China? K65 ³	—	—	India PK64 India KP66 India K67	India? L68
<i>A. dorsata</i>	—	India B68 Philippines LM68	—	—	—
<i>A. florea</i>	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Honeybee species not stated; presumed to be *A. mellifera* from later evidence.

² Found in 1944 and referred to as *Myrmocercon reidi*.

³ This is an indirect (but likely) report, which could refer to either *Apis* species.