



Eva Crane Trust

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TYPESCRIPT Contribution to Session I (Bee Biology)

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Contribution to Session I (Bee biology) : Corrected copy

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The President of the Congress has asked me to say something about the papers presented to the Congress from the point of view of the Bee Research Association. Advances^s in bee biology are at the very basis of progress in beekeeping, because the more we understand how bees behave, the better we can control them for our own economic purposes. Some of the recent discoveries on the biology of bees have added a new dimension to our knowledge - such as Dr. Woyke's work on diploid drones, those Dr. Lindauer has described, and the identification of the substances produced by bees known as pheromones, which control the relation^s between one bee and another.

Such fundamental discoveries in bee biology may well lead in future years to new developments in the economic exploitation of bees. But there are many problems that can be solved, and the solutions applied, more quickly, because their bases have already been laid down years ago. Beekeeping is now possible in all regions of the world where there is flowering vegetation. It is no longer prevented even by cold and prolonged winters, thanks to the American development of a package bee industry. Bees are therefore kept in all regions of the world from the Arctic to the Tropics, in a wider range of conditions than any other domestic animal. These conditions must be studied in each individual country and locality, before beekeeping can be properly established there on an economic basis. Such regional studies must include three things: the local bee races and strains, the flora

useful to bees, and the honey the bees produce. Many of the papers presented to the Congress provide regional information of this type, especially for countries of eastern Europe, which have contributed over three-quarters of all the papers to the Congress. Such regional studies can provide the necessary basis for regional beekeeping development. They can also provide useful additions to the sum total of knowledge about world beekeeping. It is very good for instance to learn at the Congress of the state of affairs in such relatively undocumented countries as North Korea, Albania and Malagasay (Madagascar).

From 1919 until about 1950 the Apis Club was the custodian of the knowledge of world developments in beekeeping and bee science. Its work was done largely through the journal Bee World. (Some of you may be interested to hear that we have just made arrangements for the reprinting of all out-of-print issues of Bee World from 1919 onwards.) In 1949 the Bee Research Association was founded, in 1950 it took over from the Apis Club the work of world documentation on bee science and beekeeping. The Bee Research Association works in collaboration with scientists and beekeepers in nearly 90 countries of the world. It publishes three international journals, First, Apicultural Abstracts gives details of all publications describing new research and developments relating to bees and beekeeping from the whole world, about 1000 items every year. Second, Bee World keeps beekeepers informed of world progress of special interest ~~of~~ to them. Third, the Journal of Apicultural Research published ^S original research papers from any country, for the scientists.

Further, ~~the~~ Bee Research Association has published a Dictionary of Beekeeping Terms, already in 9 languages: English, French, German, Russian, Czech, Polish, Spanish, Italian and Dutch. All this work is done by extensive voluntary collaboration between specialists in the countries concerned.

There are many other activities/^{by} which the Bee Research Association tries to keep the world informed about developments in bee science and beekeeping. This ^{it does} ~~is done~~ permanently and regularly by means of the written word, as the International Beekeeping Congresses do from time to time by the spoken word. If any of you wish to know how to use the facilities of the Association, I can give you details individually; I will not take up more of your time now.

In closing, I should like to urge beekeepers not to regard research in bee biology, discussed in this session, as something remote from practical development in beekeeping. The more fundamental a discovery is, the wider its application in practice is likely to be.