

Africanized honey bees are efficient at detecting, uncapping and removing dead brood

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Genet. Mol. Res. 8 (2): 718-724 (2009)
Received December 12, 2008
Accepted January 26, 2009
Published June 23, 2009

ABSTRACT. The hygienic behavior of honey bees is based on a two-step process, including uncapping and removing diseased, dead, damaged, or parasitized brood inside the cell. We evaluated during periods of 1 h the time that hygienic and non-hygienic colonies of Africanized honey bees spend to detect, uncap and remove pin-killed brood using comb inserts with transparent walls placed in observation hives. We observed that hygienic colonies are significantly faster in detecting, uncapping and removing dead brood in the cells ($P < 0.001$).

Key words: *Apis mellifera*; Hygienic behavior; Africanized honey bee; Observation hives