



QUEEN REARING AND SELECTION PRACTICES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE GENETIC DIVERSITY AND FITNESS OF HONEY BEE COLONIES

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The Apimondia working group on honey bee diversity and fitness (AWG 7) was created on October 25, 2010 as a Scientific Working Group of Apimondia. The aim of this AWG is to collect information on honey bee queen rearing practices, and examine their impact on the genetic variability and general health of honey bee colonies. The AWG consists of 23 members from 16 different countries. The world wide survey being conducted by this AWG is focused on gathering information on how selection methods, instrumental insemination, disease management procedures, introduction of exotic bee lines, queen replacement strategies, and loss of local colony populations due to introduced parasites and pathogens, affect the ability of our bees to survive and reproduce. The information collected will contribute on an international level to our understanding of how apiculture practices affect honey bee genetics, health and productivity.