

OR036*Levels of neonicotinoids found in United Kingdom oilseed rape***Kristopher Wisniewski**, William D.J Krik, Falko Drijfhout

Honeybees, bumblebees and stingless bees only represent a small proportion of insect pollinators; however, they provide important and economically valuable pollination services to agriculture and many terrestrial ecosystems. The recent documented global decline of social pollinators has been a central concern to the scientific and wider communities, with pesticides identified as a key contributing factor to the falling numbers. Chronic exposure to low levels of pesticides, whereby direct mortality does not occur, has been shown to induce sublethal effects, which can have a profound outcome on both the individual and ultimately the overall functioning and survival of a colony. Various methods of pesticide exposure have been identified; including contaminated pollen and nectar collected during foraging; but at what levels? Here we present the levels of three neonicotinoids found in the pollen and nectar, collected from oilseed rape, within multiple locations of the United Kingdom.