

J. Woyke : Invasion of *Capensis* bee : 07 June

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Subject: Invasion of *Capensis* bee

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### **Invasion of *A. capensis* bee**

We have had *A. capensis* bees in Poland for several years. The Cape colonies were in an apiary together with Italian, Carniolan, Caucasian and Middle European bee colonies. No invasion of normal European queenright colonies occurred. However, problems occurred with queen rearing colonies. *Capensis* workers invaded such colonies. Queen cells were destroyed and *Capensis* workers started to lay eggs.

Thus the race of invaded bee must be an important factor. Queen substance of *A. scutellata* may not, and of other races may suppress the development of ovaries in invading *Capensis* worker bees.

Beekeepers on the aloe flow, divide their *Scutellata* bee colonies. Thus, there are many queenless colonies which easily accept *Capensis* workers or false *Capensis* queens. The division of *Scutellata* colonies on the aloe flow (in presence of *Capensis* bees) is without doubt an important factor helping the invasion of *Scutellata* colonies by *Capensis* workers.

We are presently working on the false queens. More will be presented in the next message.

Regards

J. Woyke