

## Colony losses in South Africa



Dr Hannelie Human, Dr Christian Pirk  
and Prof Robin Crewe



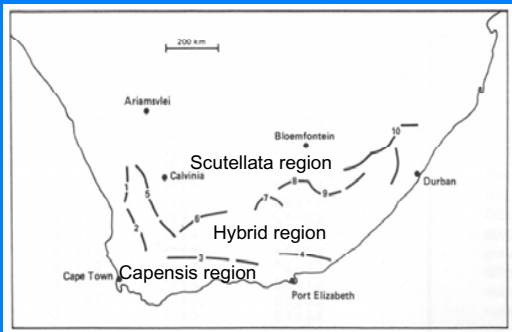
## Background

- Two subspecies of honey bees  
*Apis mellifera scutellata* and *A. m. capensis*
- 1000 beekeepers
- Own 2 % of the population
- 98 % of the bees are wild
- Commercial beekeeping
- Pollination service and migration

## The two subspecies



## Distribution



## The capensis problem!

120 % annual loss of colonies, for  
commercial beekeepers since 1991



## More trouble

- *Varroa destructor* discovered 1997  
Has not caused major losses, but bee health has deteriorated
- American Foulbrood outbreak 2009  
No major losses reported from the Cape Town region, but spreading

## Census and questionaire

- Registering as a beekeeper is mandatory, but compliance is low
- Questionaire distributed on colony loss
- 2009 with 46 replies
- 2010, with 10 replied thus far!

## Results 2009

- 4984 colonies from 46 beekeepers
- From 4 to 1055 colonies/beekeeper
- Average losses 32 %
- *A. m. capensis* region 23 %  
*A. m. scutellata* region 49 %
- Commercial beekeeper still have Capensis problem up to 2/3 loss

## Pests reported by beekeepers

- |                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| • Wax moth          | 38 % |
| • Small hive beetle | 32 % |
| • Varroa            | 17 % |
| • Chalkbrood        | 8 %  |
| • Foulbrood         | 3 %  |
| • Virus             | 1 %  |
| • CCD               | 1 %  |

## Other causes

- Veldfires and floodings
- Poor weather
- Vandalism and theft
- Pesticides
- Ants
- Honey badgers

Der kræves QuickTime™ og et TIFF (uloplysnings) komprimeringsformat, for at man kan se dette billede.