

# International Bee Research Association

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*The world's longest established apicultural research publishers*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Journal of Apicultural Research Special Issue:- International Studies on Honey Bee Colony Losses**

*It has been unclear what has caused recent global decline of honey bees. The Journal of Apicultural Research Special Issue published today focuses on the latest evidence-based explanations of the extent and causes of honey bee colony losses. These peer-reviewed reports of current scientific thinking aid our understanding of recent eye catching headlines proclaiming the dramatic demise of the honey bee, a world pollinator crisis, and the spectre of mass human starvation.*

Honey bee colonies have recently been lost worldwide, but the extent of these losses and their causes may differ from country to country. In particular, Colony Collapse Disorder (“CCD”) in the USA has caused much public and US governmental concern, leading to greatly increased research funding, and US scientists are working hard to provide explanations. There have also been significant losses throughout Europe, including the UK, and worldwide and, today, many respected bee scientists are investigating the situation.

So far, no single driver for these losses has been identified. Various factors have been suggested as explanations for elevated mortality of honey bees, but conventional causes such as pests (including the Varroa mite) and diseases, pesticides, beekeeping practices and the interactions between them, are receiving urgent attention through both national and large scale international research efforts.

Issue 49(1) of the Journal of Apicultural Research, published today by IBRA will contain a comprehensive mixture of evidence based review articles, original research articles, and reports of colony losses in many partner countries of the COST funded COLOSS Network. This issue is edited by Dr. Peter Neumann, the Chair of the global COLOSS network “Prevention of honey bee COlony LOSSes”; and Norman Carreck, Scientific Director, IBRA, and the University of Sussex, UK.

The Journal of Apicultural Research is available in electronic format from the IBRA website. However, in view of the special interest in this topic, issue 49(1) will also be available as a one-off paper edition for US\$30.00 plus postage. The paper edition can be purchased through IBRA and individual papers can be downloaded from the website.

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## Notes for editors:-

1. **Access details:** Visit [www.ibra.org.uk/categories/jar](http://www.ibra.org.uk/categories/jar) to view the Special Issue online.
2. The International Bee Research Association ("IBRA") is the world's longest established apicultural research publishers and promotes the value of bees by providing information on bee science and beekeeping worldwide. <http://www.ibra.org.uk/> IBRA is a not for profit organisation and registered charity No. 209222; and a company limited by guarantee, Reg No. 463819. IBRA's registered office is 16 North Road Cardiff, CF10 3DY, UK.
3. IBRA's Council of trustees boasts some of the world's leading bee scientists. IBRA publishes the following peer-reviewed scientific journals: -
  - The *Journal of Apicultural Research* was founded by IBRA in 1962. It publishes authoritative peer reviewed papers on scientific aspects of the biology, ecology, natural history and culture of all types of bee.
  - The *Journal of ApiProduct and Apimedical Science* was newly launched by IBRA in 2009. This journal provides a forum where the efficacy and effectiveness of bee and hive products with therapeutic properties can be presented, debated and evaluated using scientific principles.
4. IBRA publishes and sells books on bee science and beekeeping and also provides bee information services. Anyone may become an ordinary member of IBRA by payment of an annual subscription of £30. Membership benefits include receipt of four quarterly issues of "Bee World" (formerly, "Buzz Extra"), an accessible and topical journal on latest bee research, news, reviews and other relevant information for the bee scientist, beekeeper, and anyone with an interest in bees.
5. COLOSS is a network funded by the European Union COST Programme (Action FA0803) which aims to explain and prevent massive honey bee colony losses. The network does not directly support science but aims to coordinate national research activities across Europe and worldwide, promulgating consistent approaches and a broad transnational research programme with a strong focus on the transfer of science into beekeeping practice. COLOSS has 160 members drawn from 40 countries worldwide: it is chaired by Dr Peter Neumann of the Swiss Bee Research Centre, Liebefeld. Website <http://www.coloss.org/>

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS PLEASE CONTACT:-

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