



II International Symposium on BEE PRODUCTS

Annual Meeting of IHC

9-12 September 2012
Bragança, Portugal



Invitation

Beekeeping has always been considered a prominent economic activity in the northeastern corner of Portugal, known as the “Trás-os-Montes” region. In November 11th of 1514, the royal charter granted to Bragança by King Manuel already mentioned some economic privileges of honey bee products “wax, honey (...) above nine coins per batch and for those who buy it for personal use, above one coin, will be tax-free”.



Royal charter granted by King Manuel in November of 1514

At the time, the wax was used mostly for manufacturing candles, which were used in religious ceremonials as a testimony of miracles and graces received. Some dioceses applied a tithe in wax and honey to local beekeepers. In the early nineteenth century, honey bee products had a considerable commercial value.

The wax, for example, was more valued than cereals, while honey was used in direct exchange for olive oil. It is common to find local villages and places that retain ancient names associated with the bees activity, as “Torre da colmeia” (Tower of the hive), “Colmeias” (Apiaries), “Abelheira” (Bee nest), among others.

Currently, beekeeping in Northern Portugal is practiced by 4,854 beekeepers, who own over 142,000 hives, with a honey annual production of 3,000 tons, representing 25% of the national production. *Lavandula stoechas*, *Castanea sativa* and *Erica* sp. pl. honeys are the dominant unifloral honeys in the region of “Trás-os-Montes”. These honeys provide a wide menu able to satisfy any customer desire: from the light amber honey with a mild flavour to the dark mountain honeys with a strong taste. The production of reddish honeydew honeys,

with high conductivity and low levels of sugar, is another valuable resource of the “Trás-os-Montes” region, where the dense oak forests of the natural parks provide food to the honey bees when flowers are scarce.

Quality label honey from “Trás-os-Montes” is one of the strengths of this economic activity and the ideal tool to compete in the global market with products from other regions of the world. The guarantee of this quality requires deep and continuous research in the characteristics and properties together with the innovation in equipment and methodologies suitable to perform the analytical control. Those are the key challenges of the IHC in the search for new knowledge, new approaches and overlap of old and new challenges in the science of bee products. The symposium will be a great opportunity to bring together bee product researchers and to promote the interchange of information, experience and new ideas.

Organizers

IHC – International Honey Commission
CIMO – Mountain Research Centre, Portugal
IPB – Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal
FNAP – Portuguese Beekeepers National Federation

Chairman

Gudrun Beckh, President of IHC, Quality Services International GmbH, Germany

Organizing Committee

Miguel Vilas-Boas (Co-ordinator),
CIMO & IPB, Portugal
Isabel C.F.R. Ferreira,
CIMO & IPB, Portugal
Luís Guimarães Dias,
CIMO & IPB, Portugal
Maria Alice Pinto,
CIMO & IPB, Portugal



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Scientific Committee

- Andreas Thrasyvoulou,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Anne Claire Martel,
French Agency for Food Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, France
- Gian Luigi Marazzan,
National Institute for Beekeeping, Italy
- Herve Casabianca,
CNRS – Analytique Central Services, France
- Jaume Cambra,
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- Lutz Elflein,
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- Maria Campos,
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- Peter Gallmann,
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- Stefan Bogdanov,
Bee Product Science, Switzerland
- Teresa Sancho,
University of Burgos, Spain
- Vassya Bankova,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria
- Vikas Nanda,
Dept. of Food Eng. and Tech., India
- Werner v.d. Ohe,
LAVES – Institut für Bienenkunde Celle, Germany

Structure of the Symposium

- The Symposium will be organized in thematic posters and oral sessions preceded by plenary lectures given by invited keynote speakers.
- The Annual Meeting of the International Honey Commission will be an important event of the Symposium.
- A post conference tour will be included in the program, being a great opportunity to contact with the unique UNESCO World Heritage of the Douro Valley and to taste the extraordinary Port Wine.
- An alternative programme will be offered for accompanying persons.

Topics of the symposium

- New challenges in honey quality and standardization
- Innovative analytical tools for bee products evaluation
- Standards and regulations for other bee products rather than honey
- Non conventional uses of bee products
- Biological and functional properties of bee products

Venue

The symposium will be held in Bragança, Portugal. This is a small city of 21000 inhabitants, officially established in 1187. It is located in Northeastern Portugal in a natural and historically rich environment, surrounded by two natural parks, “Parque Natural de Montesinho” and “Parque Natural do Douro Internacional”. Elevation is 670 m and the climate is temperate continental (12.2°C average annual temperature). By highway, Bragança is 215 km east of Porto and 520 km north of Lisbon. It is also close to Spanish cities such as Salamanca (165 km), Valladolid (200 km), and Madrid (350 km). Domestic transportation includes flights from/to Lisbon twice a day and several bus lines from Lisbon, Porto and other major cities. Bragança offers more than 1200 beds in hotels and other lodging. Food, mostly regional and national, is famous by its taste, simplicity and the quality of its ingredients, and can be found in the many restaurants in and out of town. Bragança also offers many opportunities for recreation in nature, arts, history, and sports.

Dates and deadlines

- Second circular – January
- Abstract submission – April 09
- Notification of acceptance – May 07
- Early registration – June 01
- Conference – September 09 -11
- Post conference tour – September 12

Contacts

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**Centro de Investigação
de Montanha**



Federação Nacional
dos Apicultores
de Portugal