



Isle of Man
Government

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Application: For The Isle of Man as an Officially Varroosis Free Region

S.Jaques BVSc MSc MRCVS CVO

Relationship with the EU

Protocol No. 3 to the Act of Accession

□ Under Article 1 of Protocol 3, the Isle of Man is part of the customs territory of the Union and there is free movement of industrial and agricultural goods in trade between the Island and the Union.

□ For trade in agricultural products and applying animal health legislation the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man are treated as a single Member State.

Regulation (EEC) No 706/73 of the Council 12 March 1973



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Location



□ The distance between the Island and nearest land (Whithorn) is 29km



□ Recorded maximum flying distance for honey bees is 11 km (7 miles)¹

1. Eckert, J. E. 1933. *The flight range of the honeybee*.
J. of Agricultural Research 47:257-285

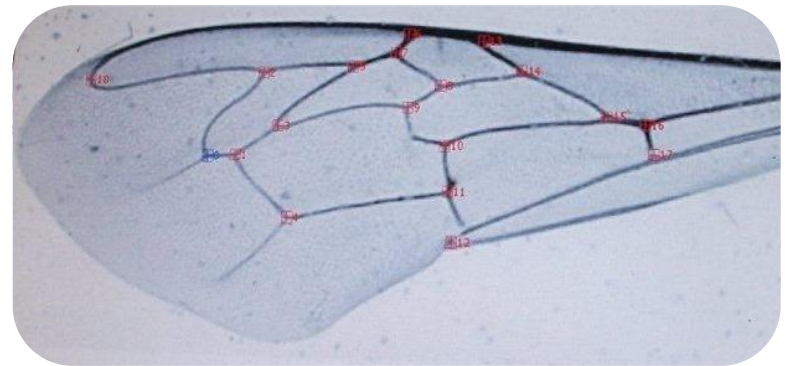
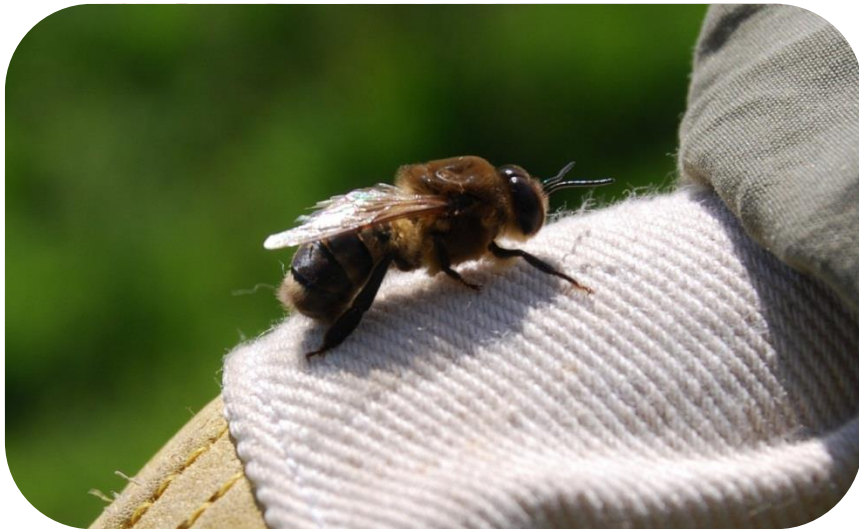


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History

- ❑ High proportion of original Black Bee genetics in population
- ❑ No imports since 1988
- ❑ First report of *Varroa destructor* in UK in 1992
- ❑ Bees provided for research show no evidence of Deformed Wing Virus or other significant bee viruses.



Beekeepers

- ❑ IOM Bee Keeping Federation founded 1912
- ❑ Federation has worked with IOMG since 1975 on bee health
- ❑ Federation totally supportive of need to remain Varroa free
- ❑ New Beekeepers trained by Bee Inspector
- ❑ Beekeepers breed own queens and supply UK research



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Legislation

- Importation of bees and bee receptacles prohibited ²
- All Bee Holdings must be registered³
- Records of bee equipment on holding must be made³
- Varroosis made notifiable in 2008³
- Statutory powers of entry, testing and sanitary measures⁴
- Authorised Bee Inspector⁴

2. *The Importation of Bees Order 1988*

3. *The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Isle of Man) Order 2008*

4. *The Bees Act 1989*



Surveillance

- ❑ Two rounds of testing over 4 years
- ❑ Two hives on every holding tested per round (or any single hive)
- ❑ Acaricidal strips used to knock down any mites and 24 hour inspection of “Varroa tray” (O.I.E.⁵)



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*5. Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines
for Terrestrial Animals 2014: Chapter 2.2.7 B 1a) Debris
examination*

Results

Active Surveillance for *V. destructor*

Surveillance round	Year	Number of active holdings	Number of holdings tested	number of Varroosis positive holdings	Holdings tested %	Prevalence %
Round 1	2009 Sep - Nov		61	0		
	2010 Apr - Oct		24	0		
	2011 May- Jun		2	0		
	Total		87	87	0	100
Round 2	2011 Oct - Nov		29	0		
	2012 Apr - Sept		62	0		
	Total		91	91	0	100



Braula coeca

Braula coeca very commonly found: extinct in much of UK owing to use of acaricides vs *V.destructor*



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V.destructor

Current Activities

- ❑ The Bee Inspector has visited in excess of 50 holdings since formal survey completed – no evidence of *V.destructor* found and *B.coeca* still present.
- ❑ Selection of local bees continues for original black bee phenotype, docility and productivity.



The UK applies for Varroa Free Status for the Isle of Man in accordance with Council Directive 92/65/EEC Article 15.



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Thank you



For listening