

COLOSSal News!

Newsletter
Issue 2017-1

COLOSS is a non-profit association for scientific professionals who are dedicated to improving the well-being of honey bees.

We conduct research and disseminate knowledge through our projects, events, newsletters, website, and social media.

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News

Véto-pharma joins the Ricola Foundation as a COLOSS Network Sponsor

COLOSS is extremely grateful to all the organizations that have supported its activities over the years. We are particularly appreciative of the close partnership that we have forged with the

Ricola Foundation – Nature and Culture since 2011. This year, COLOSS welcomes **Véto-pharma** as its second network-wide sponsor! This means that you will be seeing much more of Véto-pharma and its employees at our events. Please thank them for supporting our network's activities!

COLOSS is actively recruiting partners. Organizations can choose from three sponsorship categories:

- Network sponsor - 10,000 Euros or more per year
- Conference sponsor - 5,000-9,999 Euros per year
- Conference event sponsor - 1,000-4,999 Euros per year

For more information about furthering COLOSS through sponsorship, please contact Geoff Williams (williams@auburn.edu).

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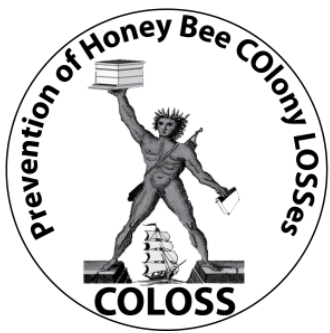
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Workshops

Right before the bee season starts here in Northern hemisphere, it is workshop season! COLOSS members have been actively attending a number of workshops organized by task forces and core projects. In this newsletter we present some of these workshops. Check out the proceedings for program, participant lists and abstracts online at: <http://www.coloss.org/publications/joint-publications-by-coloss-members>.



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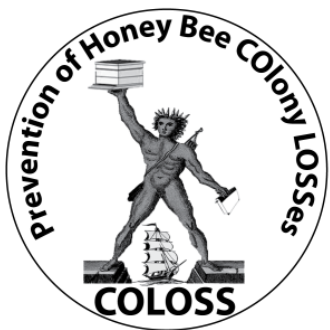
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Workshops

COLOSS, after 10 years returned to its birthplace Wageningen for the **2nd Small Hive Beetle (=SHB) Task Force (=TF) Meeting**. One main topic on the agenda was how to deal with new or future outbreaks. The TF will make an inventory of eradication and control plans and will formulate a science-based opinion on current policies to be published. Furthermore harmonizing the tools to do so, is also high on the list of priorities. The TF will develop an instructional video highlighting a standard method for visual inspection of honey bee colonies for SHB. Furthermore, it is clear that many aspects of the beetle's biology and ecology remain unknown, ranging from dispersal to reproduction strategies. In the best COLOSS fashion participants shared their current and future research objectives to see in what way collaborations could be established. As the lack of experience of most members with the SHB is clear, the aim is to organize the next meeting in a small hive beetle infested location.





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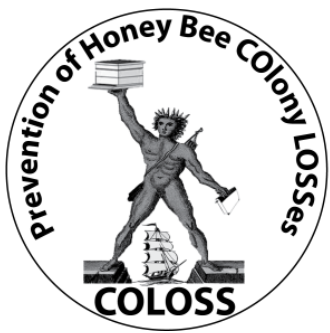
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Workshops (continued)

Once again beautiful Bologna did host this year's annual workshop of the **Varroa Task Force** and the **B-RAP** group. As a cooperation of the two groups there was a joint meeting, where the main point was a strategy for dissemination on treatment against *Varroa*, maybe the most important challenge of modern beekeeping. A road plan was set up and on the long run a webpage and *Varroa* book will be established in cooperation between the two groups. The **Varroa Task Force**, with all its 6 working groups, provided an update and development briefing of each group. One major change was the replacement of Ales Gregorc as co-chair of the group with Maja Smodis Skerl. The **B-RAP** group (Bridging Research and Practice) did invite two very exciting guest speakers, coming from social science, pointing out the importance of good dissemination strategies and the big diversity of beekeepers. Then continued working on the ongoing projects, like several questionnaires' for beekeepers (how they do get their information), for scientists within Coloss (how do you disseminate your findings), for the Coloss countries (how is the education set up). If anyone is interested in dissemination, everybody is welcome to join our mailing list (contact fv@biavl.dk) and we will keep you updated.





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Workshops (continued)

The **RNSBB** group had its annual workshop in Kraków, Poland in March. The group discussed several topics, including on the trait suppression of mite reproduction. Some interesting talks were given by R. Büchler, V. Soroker, P. Giovenazzo, M. Kovacic, Y. Poquet and E. Cauia. Main authors of the popular bee book gave updates on their chapters, which was followed by a discussion concerning each chapter. Some issues concerning illustrations were raised. An expert illustrator, A. Tofilski, volunteers to perform any necessary illustrations. Copyright issues were also discussed.



At the annual **workshop of the core project on „Colony loss monitoring“**, the questionnaire for monitoring colony losses in 2017 was finalised and some strategies developed and discussed for this core project. This core project now provides mortality rates and risk analysis since several years. The workshop was held in a building about 15 meters to the seaside of Zadar, Croatia. Surveys on loss rates of honey bee colonies are currently held in ca. 30 countries, results will be available for the conference in autumn.



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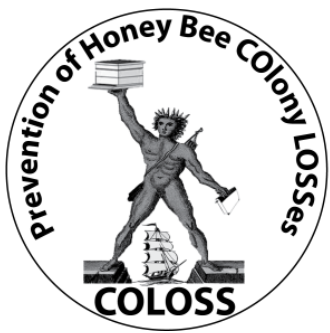
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Workshops (continued)

The **Virus Taskforce (VTF)** had its first workshop in April in wonderful Avignon. There have been some very interesting talks given by Judy Chen, Per Kryger, Eric Dubois, Declan Schroeder (who by the way is a marine virologist), Joachim de Miranda, Pavel Plevka (who provided us with toys, aka 3D printed virus particles) and Ewan Campbell. The group established some tasks to be completed. Two of them are very hands-on, namely: digging up the oldest bee/DNA/RNA samples you can possibly find, create a database, and... that's a start! The second practical task would be qPCR primer comparison. Tasks number 3 and 4 are review papers on honeybee viruses. The next meeting of the group will take place in Warsaw, Poland in February 2018 so stay tuned for more details!

VTF coordinators are Anne Dalmon and Nor Chejanovsky.



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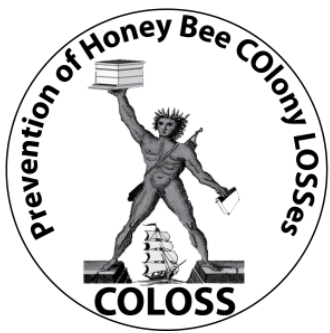


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Upcoming events

- **Velutina task force workshop**, Majorca, Spain (June 22nd to 23rd, 2017)
- **HIVE OF SCIENCE FOR BEES** Alixan, France (October 9th to 13th, 2017)
- **Bee Course 2017**, Portal, Arizona (August 21st to 31st, 2017)
- **COLOSS Conference (2nd & 3rd of November, 2017) Athens, Greece. Stay tuned for more information! [\[link\]](#)**



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articles

- Martinello M. *et al.*. (2017) Spring mortality in honey bees in northeastern Italy: detection of pesticides and viruses in dead honey bees and other matrices, Journal of Apicultural Research, 56:3, 239-254, DOI:10.1080/00218839.2017.1304878 [\[link\]](#)
- Brodschneider R. *et al.* (2017) Food consumption and food exchange of caged honey bees using a radioactive labelled sugar solution. PLoS ONE 12(3): e0174684. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0174684 [\[link\]](#)
- Abou-Shaara, H.F. and R.M. Tabikha (2016). Morphological characterization and a morphometry map for Varroa mites from northwest of Egypt. Agronomical Research in Moldavia, 49 (4): 75-84. [\[link\]](#)
- Ptaszyńska A. *et al.* (2016). Are commercial probiotics and prebiotics effective in the treatment and prevention of honeybee nose mites? Parasitology Research, 115(1): 397-406, DOI: 10.1007/s00436-015-4761-z [\[link\]](#)
- Borsuk G. *et al.* (2017). A new method for quick and easy hemolymph collection from Apidae adults. PLoS ONE 12(1): e0170487. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0170487 [\[link\]](#)
- Bhattacharyya A. *et al.* (2016) A positive identification of nanoparticles on the surface of thorax, abdomen and wings of the worker honey bee *Apis dorsata* Fabricius. J. of Apicultural Science, 60(1): 73-82 [\[link\]](#)
- Kiljanek, T. *et al.* (2016). Pesticide poisoning of honeybees: a review of symptoms, incident classification, and causes of poisoning. Journal of Apicultural Science, 60(2), 5–24. [\[link\]](#)
- De Smet L, *et al.* (2017) Stress indicator gene expression profiles, colony dynamics and tissue development of honey bees exposed to sub-lethal doses of imidacloprid in laboratory and field experiments. PLoS ONE 12(2): e0171529. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0171529 [\[link\]](#)
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- Wilde j. *et al.*. (2016): The influence of sublethal doses of imidacloprid on protein content and proteolytic activity in honey bees (*Apis mellifera* L.), Journal of Apicultural Research, DOI: 10.1080/00218839.2016.1211394
- Abd Elhamid, A.M. and H.F. Abou-Shaara (2017). Using gelatin to produce honey jelly from citrus, clover and cotton liquid honey. Agronomical Research in Moldavia, 50 (1): 57-64. [\[link\]](#)
- Abou-Shaara, H.F. *Et al.* (2017). Impacts of oxalic acid, thymol, and potassium citrate as Varroa control materials on some parameters of honey bees. Turkish Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, 41(2): 238-247. [\[link\]](#)
- Abou-Shaara, H.F. (2017). Effects of various sugar feeding choices on survival and tolerance of honey bee workers to low temperatures. Journal of Entomological and Acarological Research, 49 (1):6-12. [\[link\]](#)

job announcements

- Visit: <http://coloss.org/announcements/jobs> for jobs in the field of honey bee research!