

REPORT ON MITEGONE™; A COMMERCIAL SLOW RELEASE ACARICIDE TREATMENT OF 65% FORMIC ACID

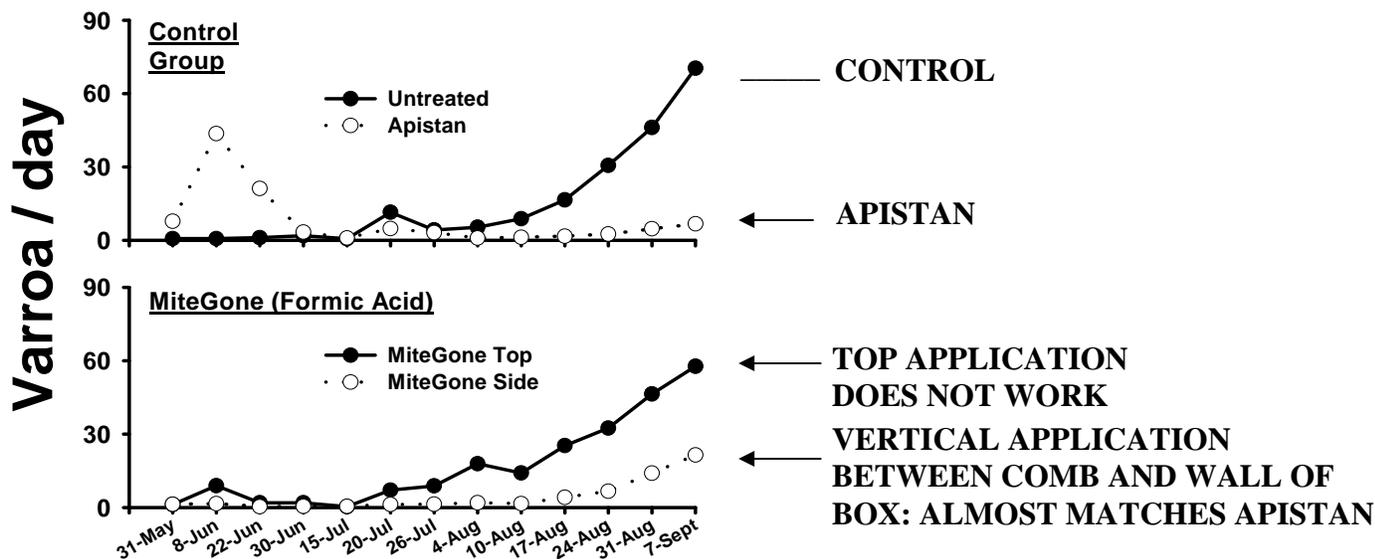
Excerpt from Hivelights, 2000 Vol. 13 #4; *Can you Make Varroa Sick?*; Adony Melathopoulos (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge, AB), Bill Ruzicka (Bill's Honey Farm, Kelowna, BC) and John Gates (BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Vernon, BC).

"... two groups of colonies were either left untreated (Untreated) or treated with Apistan (Apistan) for comparison. . . A new commercial slow-release treatment of 65% formic acid (MiteGone™) was also tested and applied on top of the brood nest (MiteGone™ Top) or stapled beside the outer frame (MiteGone™ Side). Following treatment the varroa mite population in each colony was evaluated on a weekly basis using stickyboards. Colonies were assessed in September to determine if treatments had any effect on bee populations or honey production. Colonies were monitored for varroa mites by treating all colonies with Apistan for 2 days and counting stickyboards in mid-September, to compare the relative number of mites among the treatments entering into the winter.

[All treatments] . . . had no measurable negative impact on the population of bees or the productivity of colonies.

Unexpectedly, colonies treated with formic acid applied on the side of colonies appeared to have fewer mites compared to colonies receiving the same treatment on the top bars above the brood nest."

Figure: Varroa mite population rise following treatment with Apistan and 65% Formic Acid, using two half-pads in double-high colonies.



Note: Reformatted from scanned small page for easier reading.