

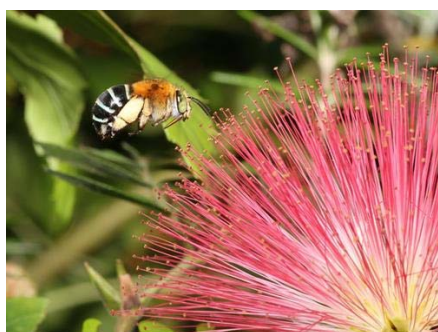
# BeeAware Newsletter



## Have your say on bees and pollination

To better understand current use of pollination across the horticultural and agricultural sectors and help design research projects that address industry trends and needs, Plant & Food Research is asking growers, farmers and beekeepers to share their current practices and thoughts on future pollination requirements. The online questionnaire can be filled in at [www.pollinationsurvey.com](http://www.pollinationsurvey.com).

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## Australian blue-banded bee's pollination technique

Scientists have captured the unique pollination techniques of the blue-banded bee (*Amegilla murrayensis*) in slow motion video as it pollinates a cherry tomato flower. A native bee expert from the University of Adelaide and her colleagues found the blue-banded bee gets the pollen by banging its head on the flower's anthers at a staggering 350 times a second.

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## Research shows impact of neonicotinoids on bee pollination

New results are the first to show that neonicotinoids impair the insects' ability to pollinate plants. Previous studies have found that the pesticides can affect bees, but haven't measured how that translates to their pollination service. The study found that apple trees pollinated by bumblebees exposed to neonicotinoid pesticides contained 36 per cent fewer seeds than those pollinated by unexposed

bees. The full study is published in the [Nature](#) journal.

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## US research could save honey bee colonies

A US researcher, Dr Kaira Wagoner, from the University of North Carolina has uncovered a chemical that could increase the odds of honey bee survival by helping them better combat the parasites within their hives. Dr Wagoner's research suggests that the chemical could be used as a tool to breed hygienic honey bee colonies that show increased hygienic behaviour and are therefore more disease resistant hives.

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## Diversity in a honey bee pathogen

Research recently published in *The ISME Journal* has discovered a new master variant of Deformed Wing Virus (DWV) which has important implications for the positive identification of the true pathogen within global honey bee populations.

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## Which stingless bee is that? And a new species found

A three-year analysis of *Austroplebeia* stingless bees across Australia and in New Guinea has just been published. A new species has been found in the Northern Territory and named *Austroplebeia magna*. A copy of the volume can be purchased [here](#).



## Bees struggle to produce honey in Qld as lack of rain takes toll

The drought that has affected farmers throughout most of Queensland, in Australia, is also hurting beekeepers and reducing honey production.

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## New bait decimates wasps while keeping bees safe from toxins

New Zealand's primary producers have a new weapon in their fight against European wasps, thanks to a highly effective new bait, called Vespex. This bait is unattractive to bees and can reduce wasp activity by 95 per cent, according to New Zealand's Department of Conservation.

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