

BeeVital ChalkBrood

“Bio” Product against Chalkbrood

Chalkbrood is a mycosis which affects bee brood. The disease occurs in the spring, it worsens in the summer and disappears in the autumn, when the queen stops laying eggs, but reoccurs if fighting measures are not taken in the following spring. A laboratory test is necessary in order to set a correct diagnosis.

Spores of *Ascosphera apis* ended up on the body or in the intestine of larvae germinate, form a mycelium which penetrates the organism and ramifies in it by invasion, causing the death of the larva after its sealing. The disease is favored by the use of antibiotics in preventive purposes, alkaline pH of nectar or artificial food, humidity and lack of ventilation.

Structure

BeeVital ChalkBrood is a sweet concoction composed of stable organic acids, essential oils and propolis, formulated to act against chalkbrood caused by *Ascosphera apis* fungus. BeeVital ChalkBrood inhibits the growth of *Ascosphera apis* fungus and favors the elimination of the affected brood by bees.

Treatment

In contaminated apiaries the main treatment with BeeVital ChalkBrood is applied twice a year, in the spring and in the autumn, and one can intervene anytime it is considered necessary without the risk of contaminating beekeeping products. BeeVital ChalkBrood is a “bio” product. In the spring one must intervene with BeeVital ChalkBrood especially in colonies (apiaries) which have had chalkbrood.

Dosage and use

The concoction is heated at human body temperature and is used only when the environment temperature exceeds 15 degrees C. Bee frames are sprayed in the area of the affected brood with a quantity of 20-30 ml for a bee colony. The treatment is repeated twice – three times, at 7-10 day intervals.

Comments

Chalkbrood is successfully fought against especially when the favoring causes are removed and when applying treatment support and enhancement measures, such as reshaping the combs with large areas of affected brood; reducing the nest, stimulation feeding, replacing queens; cleaning and decontaminating the beekeeping material and burning contaminated combs. The artificial food administered to bees must be high-quality, must not contain mould spores and must have acid pH.

Growing vigorous and chalkbrood-resistant colonies is also facilitated by the use of a mesh hive stand (anti-Varroa floor / gauze, perforated sheet) which improves ventilation and fights humidity.

Important

Chalkbrood must not be confused with Aspergillosis (stone brood), the disease caused by fungi such as Aspergillus and which affects both brood and adult bees. Aspergillosis occurs rarely in aviaries, but is more serious. The condition also affects other species, including humans. The disease evolves very fast, and spores may be spread all over the hive or may contaminate the beekeeper at the slightest air current. The personnel who work with families of bees affected by Aspergillosis must wear masks.

The most adequate measure in case of Aspergillosis, when the diagnosis has been precisely set (by a laboratory), is to terminate the contaminated colony, to destroy the contaminated brood and to decontaminate the beekeeping material from the apiary.