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USING OF SURROGATE ENTEROVIRUS 71 FOR THE STUDY OF HONEYBEE VIRUSES INACTIVATION

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The aim of the study was to answer a question frequently asked by beekeepers regarding the presence and importance of honeybee viruses in both honey and sugar stocks.

Testing of the effectiveness of chemical and physical disinfection of honeybee viruses is limited by the unavailability of a suitable experimental model based on the





honeybee virus and a permanent cell line. Therefore, it is necessary to choose **a surrogate** which can be tricky.

The surrogate should meet the following criteria:

- 1. taxonomic relatedness to the target virus;
- 2. resistance of the surrogate under the test conditions;
- 3. the ability to grow on a cell line to a sufficiently high titre;
- 4. safety for laboratory workers (not BSL3 level).

Therefore, we chose human Enterovirus A 71 (EVA71) for testing. It is structurally similar to black queen cell virus and, like many other honey bee viruses, it is a small, non-enveloped virus with a single-stranded RNA within *Picornavirales* order. Both chemical and physical decontamination procedures usable in beekeeping were tested on this model picornavirus. EVA71 showed considerable thermal stability and, in particular, the ability to survive long-term at normal outdoor temperatures.¹

- 25 days at +4°C
- preliminary test
- ctrl of potential antiviral effect of honey
- 140 days at +11°C
- the temperature corresponds to the real temperature in the warehouses and serves to prevent waxworm infestation



Effective inactivation of EVA71 was only achieved at a higher temperature. When exposed to a temperature of 50 °C for 48 hours, the amount of infectious EVAA71 in honey decreases by at least 99.999%. It means that after 48 hours at 50 °C no infectious EVA71 was detected.¹

-saline solution -glucose/fructose mixture

- ctrl of potential antiviral effect of honey: EVA71 titer wasn't affected
- ctrl of effect of saline solution: EVA71 titer wasn't affected



- end-point titration on VERO cell line;
- detection of cytophatic effect using optical microscope;
- the viral infectivity titre [the median tissue culture infective dose (log10 TCID50)] was calculated using the Spearman–Karber method.

Reference:

1. Prodělalová, J., Malenovská, H., Moutelíková, R. and Titěra, D. Virucides in apiculture: persistence of surrogate enterovirus under simulated field conditions. Pest Manag Sci 2017; 73: 2544-2549.

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