

# Territorial biodiversity in cropping system and consequences on physico-chemical characteristics of collected pollen

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# Territorial biodiversity in cropping system and consequences on physico-chemical characteristics of collected pollen

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EURBEE, September 2010

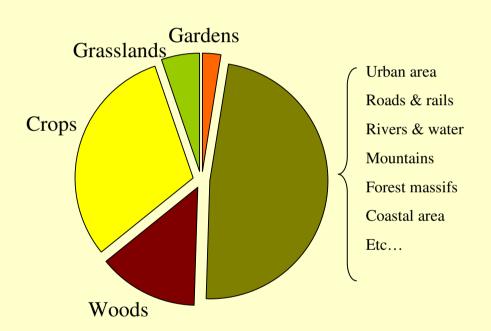


# Introduction

# Agrosystems represent the major land use

42% in Europe and 52% in France

- Agrosystems: natural, seminatural, artificial elements
- Cereal cropping systems considerably intensified under the CAP: intensive cropping system







### Background

Decline threat on diversity by farming intensification (Fried 2009)

Diet diversity impact on bee health (Alaux, 2010)

→ could impact on honeybee colonies?

A food shortage period can be observed between crops flowers (i.g. rapeseed and sunflower)

April May June July August

16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32

Tapeseed sunflower

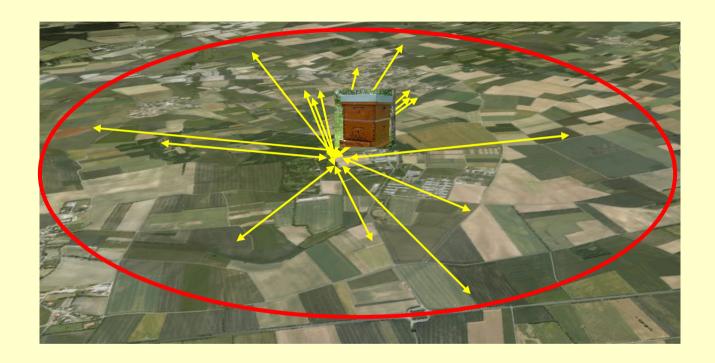
Do Alternative resources play a survival role for bee colonies ???

(i.g. woods and weeds)





### Honey bees are spatial collectors and forage over long distances





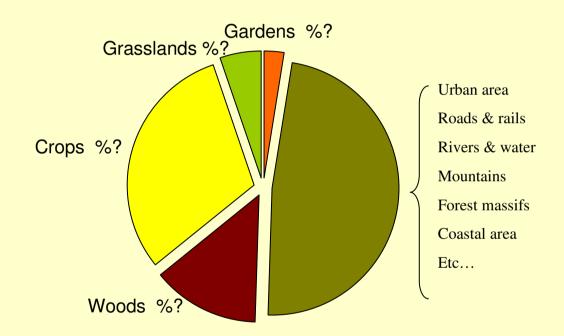


Our aim

To assess available resources to bees within the flight range in quantity and quality

To check the flower range exploited

in an intensive cropping environment





# **Materials and methods**

## Samples supply

Based on the collect of pollen trap all along 1 year

- •10 bee colonies at Le Magneraud apiary
- •Samples collected from January to December 2006
- Harvested twice a week











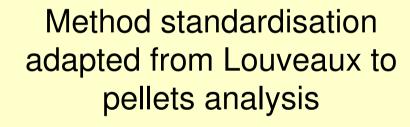




http://guenievre.magneraud.inra.fr/entomologie

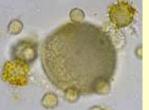
# 1. Palynological analyses

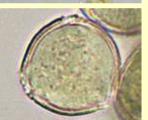


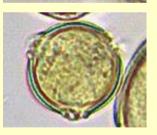


Replicates in 2 slides











# 2. Physico-chemical analyses





- •Sugars
  - •Elser method, colorimetric
- •Proteins
  - •Kjeldahl method
- •Lipids
  - acid hydrolysis
  - Folch method extraction (1957)

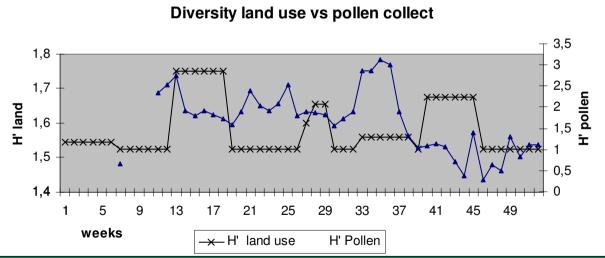




# Results: diversity of landscape and harvest

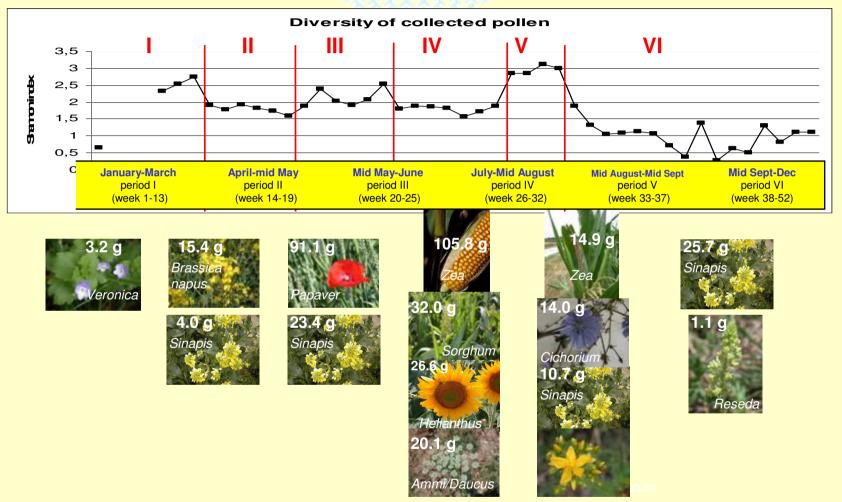






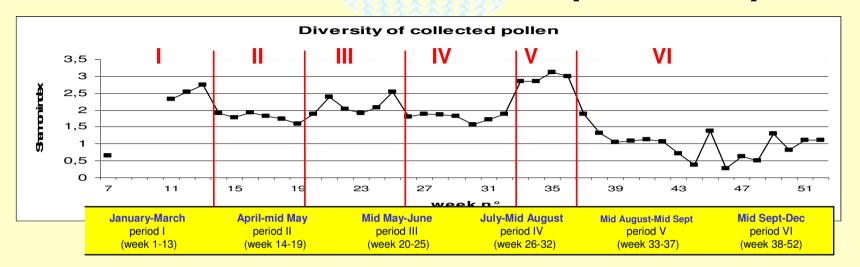


# Results: main taxa (Cropped area)





# Results: main taxa (Woods)



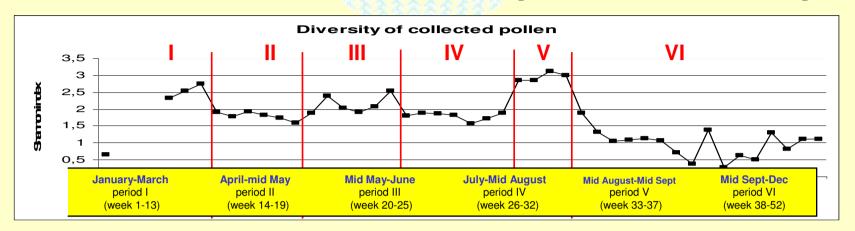








# Results: main taxa (Grasslands)







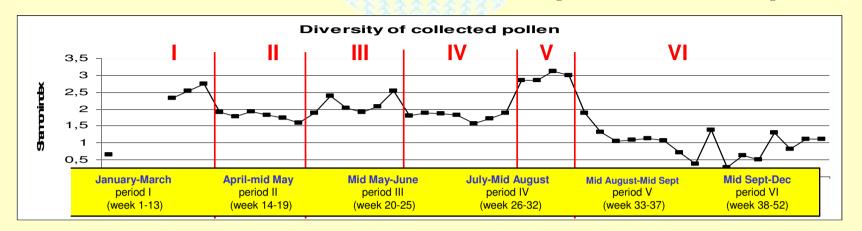








# Results: main taxa (Gardens)





Vicia

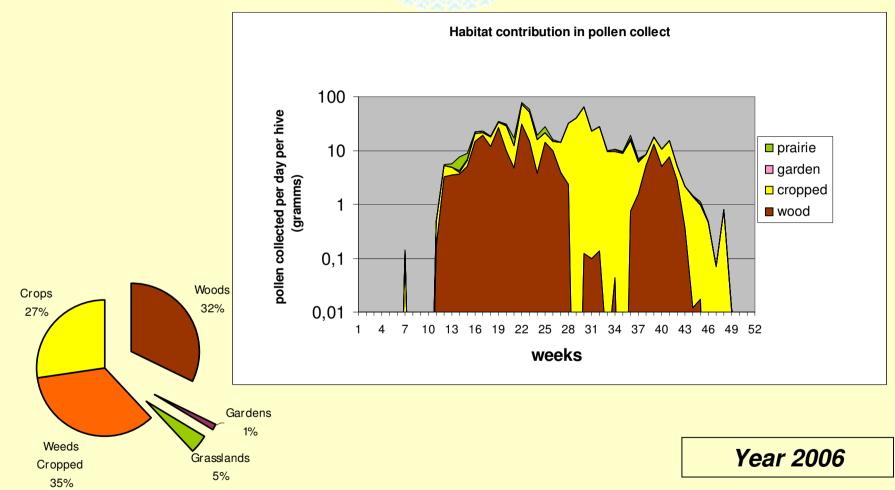
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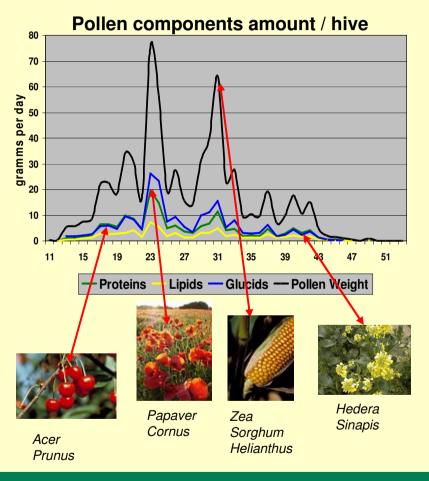


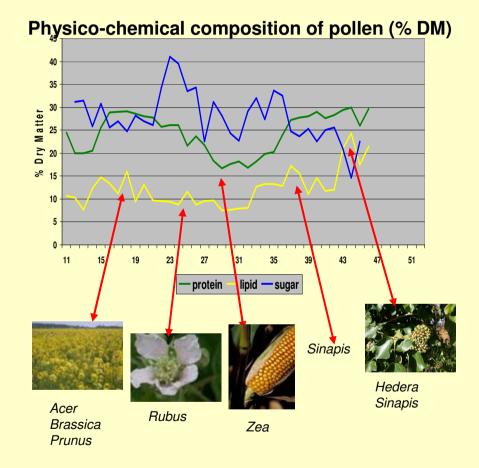
# Habitat contribution in pollen collect





### Physico-chemical characterisation of pollen supply









# Conclusion

origin and abundance of pollen

#### The cropped area

1. Crops

Maize: 5 weeks > 50%

Rapeseed: 1 week > 50%

Sunflower: 2 weeks > 28%

Sorghum: 2 weeks > 22%

2. Weeds

More consequent than crop pollen

Ability factor of a landscape to feed

bees.

Inter-crop and summer period

The champion: Poppy.

Its future?

#### The woods

Major role for bees in the cereal farming context.

50% pollen diversity in period I.

Hedgerows and border taxa => large contribution in spring

Management?

#### The grasslands

Secondary supply

Did not impact the inputs at any time

Though common species largely present (Trifolium, Medicago...)

Diversity of these grasslands?

#### The gardens

Did not impact the inputs at any time

Visited in low abundance period

Non endemic species => impact of fashion upon bee food?



# Conclusion



### **About the biodiversity**

- >Wood elements insured the hives survival during the sowing periods
- The pollen diversity did not seem to follow that of the landscape
- The high diversity period was encountered in the end of summer and was provided by weeds, whereas the low one in autumn
- ➤ Some very productive species occurred in low diversified times



# Conclusion

### **About the nutritional components**

### Sugar

14 to ...41%!

High sugar values:

simultaneous with the dry weather

concerned all habitats

#### **Proteins**

16 to 30 %!

High protein pollen diet occurred in spring during the brood nursing

Low protein time before large crop blooming

Medium protein content of maize balanced by huge quantities

High protein rate of diet in automn

### Lipids

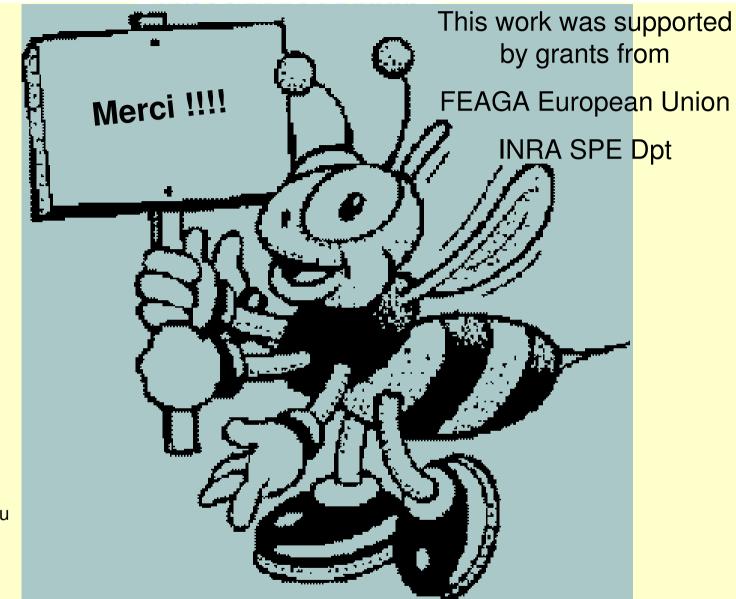
7 to 24%!

High lipid pollen amount in spring, Papaver/Cornus

Low lipid period in summer could have consequences on autumn worker?

Very high rate of lipid in pollen collected in autumn but in too poor quantities





#### Thanks to

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