

Monitoring for Asian Hornets 2020

Spring

We are approaching the time when Asian Hornet queens will be emerging from hibernation – when the temperature is consistently reaching 13° C – and so we need to be monitoring for their presence.

We don't know if there are any Asian Hornet queens overwintering in the UK this year, or whether any mated queens will make their way into the UK post hibernation. But we need to be prepared.

We strongly recommend the use of **monitoring stations**, rather than killing traps. This allows us to get the evidence of Asian Hornets that we need, without killing our native beneficial insects, in particular European Hornets.

Asian Hornet queens will be searching for sugary foods to build up their energy, not preying on your bees. This means that all monitoring stations need to be positioned **where you cannot help but see them** and **where you can easily check them daily** - e.g. outside the kitchen window, or in a sunny spot in your garden. All **beneficial insects must be released** from monitoring stations **daily**.

From midMay AH queens will be mainly in their nests and so monitoring stations can be removed.

We are recommending the adaptation of Thornes traps to include the wick stations inside. This allows wasps and small flies to escape. (See Instructions below)



Liquid bait

Use Suterra (now sold as Trappit wasp attractant) Get this from your AHAT Team leader if restrictions allow (keep yourself and others safe, and comply with government guidelines) or **buy online** (Pestfix.co.uk sells smaller bottles)

If you cannot get it due to current restrictions try one of these French recipes:

- Dark beer mixed with 25ml strawberry dessert sauce and 25ml orange liqueur
- 350ml sweet white wine (or white wine sweetened with sugar) + 20-30ml mint syrup

Please also observe any flowers where Asian Hornet queens may be feeding. Any trees that may be oozing sap are also very attractive to AH queens in Spring. Being confined to our homes at the moment gives us the ideal opportunity to spend time monitoring for Asian Hornets.

Summer

From the August onwards, Asian hornet workers may be found preying on your bees, so monitoring stations may also be hung in your apiaries. Again, we need to be monitoring regularly so that we protect our beneficial insects, and so that we have live samples that could be tracked if necessary. Please register your monitoring stations in apiaries on BeeBase.

What to use

- Monitoring stations as above
- Open bait stations – plastic tray with screwed up kitchen roll, a stone and your liquid bait. Ideally protect these from rain - on a bird table

Autumn

In the Autumn Asian Hornet workers can be observed on fallen and growing fruit and on ivy plants, where they will often be seen taking prey. Males and new queens will be produced in the late Autumn and males can be seen feeding on flowers. This is a crucial time to spot Asian Hornets as it is important to find any nests before the queens emerge and go into hibernation. Observe plants, fruit and also around your apiary.

If you think you have seen an Asian Hornet

- Get a photo (or sample)
- If you are not sure or are struggling to get evidence contact your local Asian Hornet Action Team – asianhornet@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk
- If you are sure and you have evidence, then report on the [Asian Hornet Watch](#) App or on alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk – and to your local AHAT.

Due to current restrictions please make sure that you keep yourself safe and comply with government guidelines. Check BBKA website for updates on how this relates to beekeepers.

Monitoring stations instructions

This is the new design monitoring stations that they are using in Jersey. They are designed to allow wasps and small flies to escape. The wick pot also prevents all but the smallest flies etc. from getting down the side. They still require daily monitoring.



The traps have three 6mm holes drilled in them around the top in the flutings that act as reinforcements for the pot itself.

The wick stations are cut down sample pots that when unmodified are 7cm high and just under 5cm diameter. (You may need to improvise with something of a similar size)



The sample pot is cut at half its height i.e 3.5cm and the lower section is fitted through the top section base first.

Place a small block of wood or similar over the top of the pot and tap the two parts together.

That way you retain the screw top and the modified pot fits snugly into the trap.
A 12mm hole is drilled in the lid to take the wick which is made from paper toweling.



The wick pot prevents all but the smallest flies etc from getting down the side and the holes in the trap allow wasps and small flies to escape.

Any questions contact Lynne Ingram, Somerset AHAT Coordinator.
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