

The Vanishing Bees

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man,"... Albert Einstein.

Whilst vote-catching politicians waffle on about the dangers of Global Warming, there are no votes to be gained by knocking mobile phones.

Yet dangers to humans from mobiles have long been known, and now it seems they could be causing the disappearance of bee populations, and without that little worker, the whole food chain would collapse and possibly wipe out humanity.

The scary reduction in bee populations across Europe and the USA represents a potential ecological disaster.

Bees play a vital role in maintaining a balanced eco-system and, so the experts say, if bees were to become extinct then humanity would perish after just four years.

This view is possibly alarmist and that we would find other food sources, but the fact remains that the disappearance of bees is potentially devastating to agriculture and most plant life.

Bee populations are declining at rates of up to 80% in areas of the U.S. and Europe and this presents a more urgent problem than all the other man-made potential ecological disasters.

"Bee numbers on parts of the east coast and in Texas have fallen by more than 70 percent, while California has seen colonies drop by 30 to 60 percent," reports AFP.

One beekeeper from the California State Beekeepers Association recently told the US Congress, "Approximately 40 percent of my 2,000 colonies are currently dead and this is the greatest winter colony mortality I have ever experienced in my 30 years of beekeeping".

Scientists have ruled out parasites as causing the decline, "Experts believe that

the large-scale use of genetically modified plants in the US could be a factor", reports Germany's Spiegel Online.

Scientists throughout Germany, Poland, Switzerland and Spain are reporting bee populations dropping 25% and up to 80% in some areas.

Studies have shown that bees are not dying in the hive, something is causing them to lose their sense of orientation so that they cannot return to the hive.

One theory put forward is that radiation from mobile phones interferes with bees' navigation systems, preventing the home loving species from finding their way back to their hives. Improbable as it may seem, there is now evidence to back this up.

Hives are also not being raided for their honey by other insects, which happens when bees naturally die in the winter, suggesting some kind of poisonous toxin is driving them away.

In many cases, scientists have found that surviving bees are infected by not just one,



surface of the bee's intestines, sufficiently weakening the bees to allow the parasites to gain entry, or perhaps it was the other way around. We don't know."

And in a cynical example of political stupidity, we may not learn what the cause until it's too late...Professor Kaatz wanted urgently to continue his studies but funding was cut off.

Are mobile phones wiping out our bees, or is it some other cause...who knows, and out of all the governments of the world, who cares?

The case against using mobile phones.

Ironclad proof is still lacking about the dangers, mainly because many, such as cancer, take years before the symptoms appear.

One official Finnish study found that people who used the phones for more than 10 years were 40 per cent more likely to get a brain tumour on the same side as they held the handset.

Another Swedish research revealed that radiation from mobile phones killed off brain cells, suggesting that today's teenagers could grow up even daffier than they are already!

Other studies in India and the U.S. have linked reduced sperm counts in men to mobiles.

Professor Sir William Stewart, who headed two official UK enquiries, warned that children under eight should not use mobiles and made a series of safety recommendations, largely ignored by ministers.

Pollution, mobile phone or genetically altered foods are all under suspicion, but without adequate funding that is all they will remain...uncertainty.

Maybe governments should start to legislate for humanitarian value, and not simply to win votes.



Bees Are Born Fully Grown

but most of the known bee viruses.

Some had as many as five or six infections at the same time and were infested with fungi, which shows, experts say, that the insects' immune system may have collapsed.

A study at the University of Jena from 2001 to 2004 showed that toxins from a genetically modified maize variant designed to repel insects, when combined with a parasite, resulted in a "significantly stronger decline in the number of bees" than normal.

"According to Hans-Hinrich Kaatz, a professor at the University of Halle in eastern Germany and the director of the study, the bacterial toxin in the genetically modified corn may have "altered the

Bees With Attitude!

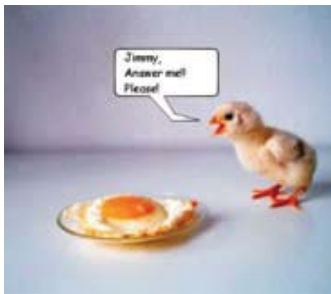
Africanised Honey Bees are descendants of southern African bees imported in 1956 by Brazilian scientists attempting to breed a honeybee better adapted to the South American tropics.

When some of these bees escaped quarantine in 1957, they began breeding with local Brazilian honeybees, quickly multiplying and extended their range throughout South, Central

and now North America at a rate greater than 200 miles per year.

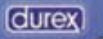
They earned the name "killer bees" because they will viciously attack people and animals that unwittingly stray into their territory, often resulting in serious injury or death.

It is not necessary to disturb the hive itself to initiate an attack, bees have been known to respond viciously to noises or even vibrations from vehicles, equipment and pedestrians.



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