

Varroa

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Varroa is a genus of parasitic mites associated with honey bees, placed in its own family, **Varroidae**.^[4] The genus was named for Marcus Terentius Varro, a Roman scholar and beekeeper. The condition of a honeybee colony being infested with *Varroa* mites is called varroosis (also, incorrectly, **varroatosis**).

Varroa mites are recognised as the biggest pest to honeybees worldwide due to their ability to transmit diseases such as deformed wing virus to larval or pupating bees, resulting in death or severe deformity of the pupae.

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History and behavior

Varroa mites feed off the bodily fluids of adult, pupal, and larval honey bees, and may carry viruses that are particularly damaging to the bees (e.g., deformed wings, and IAPV), and accordingly they have been implicated in colony collapse disorder. Research has indicated that alone, neither *Varroa* mites nor deformed wing virus are particularly deadly, yet together they can pose an incredible risk to colonies.^{[5][6]}

Varroa mites were first discovered in Java about 1904,^[7] but are now present in all honey bee populations except Australia, Isle of Man and northern parts of Norway. They were discovered in the United States in 1987, in New Zealand in 2000,^[8] and in the United Kingdom in 1992 (Devon).

Bee-breeding efforts to develop resistance against *Varroa* are ongoing. The USDA has developed a line of bees which uses *Varroa*-sensitive hygiene to remove reproductive mites. This line is now being distributed to beekeepers to be used as part of their integrated pest management programs.

Species

The genus *Varroa* contains these species:^[4]

- *Varroa destructor* Anderson & Trueman, 2000^[7] is a virulent parasite that infests its natural host, *Apis cerana* (Asian honey bees), on mainland Asia and also *Apis mellifera* (western honey bee) worldwide.
- *Varroa jacobsoni* Oudemans, 1904^{[2][3]} is a relatively benign parasite of *Apis cerana*.
- *Varroa rindereri* de Guzman & Delfinado-Baker , 1996^[9]

Varroa



Varroa destructor

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Arachnida
Subclass:	Acari
Order:	Mesostigmata
Superfamily:	Dermanyssoidea
Family:	Varroidae Delfinado & Baker , 1974 ^[1]
Genus:	<i>Varroa</i> Oudemans , 1904 ^{[2][3]}

Species

See text

- *Varroa sinhai* (Delfinado & Baker, 1974)^[1]
- *Varroa wongsirii* (Lekprayoon & Tangkanasing, 1991)^[10]



Resistance

Some honey bees strains have become resistant to *Varroa*.^{[11][12]} These strains have developed *Varroa*-sensitive hygiene behavior and can detect and remove *Varroa* in brood.

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External links

-  Data related to *Varroa* at Wikispecies
-  Media related to *Varroa* at Wikimedia Commons

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