

PEST ALERT

Small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*); An emerging threat to honeybee colonies

Target: *Apis mellifera* and other honeybees

Pest: Small Hive Beetle (SHB)

1. FIELD IDENTIFICATION

• Adult beetle

- i) Small, oval, dark brown to black beetle, about 5–7 mm long.
- ii) Moves rapidly and runs/hides in dark places when the hive is opened.
- iii) Commonly found under the inner cover, between frames, frame lugs and bottom board.

• Larva

- i) Creamy-white, elongated, worm-like.
- ii) Has three pairs of legs near the front and prominent spines on the body.
- iii) Larvae may be found crawling over combs and stored honey/pollen.

2) WARNING SIGNS IN THE COLONY

Look for:

- Adult beetles hiding between frames.
- SHB larvae on combs.
- Fermented/bubbling honey and foul/fermented odour.
- Slimy or wet-looking honey and combs.
- Damaged pollen/brood stores.
- Weakening and absconding of the colony.
- Fermented/slimy honey with numerous small dark beetles is a major warning sign.

3) IMMEDIATE PRECAUTIONS

Keep colonies strong

- i. Maintain healthy, populous colonies.
- ii. Avoid keeping weak or queen less colonies for long periods.

Reduce unused space

- i. Do not provide excessive hive space to weak colonies.
- ii. Ensure frames are adequately covered with bees.

Maintain hive hygiene

- i. Keep hives, bottom boards and apiary surroundings clean and dry.
- ii. Remove dead colonies and heavily damaged comb promptly.

Regular inspection

- i. Inspect colonies every 7–14 days during periods of high risk.
- ii. Give special attention to weak and stressed colonies.

Trapping

- i. Use SHB traps like Apple cider Vinegar lure, Corrugated plastic trap, petri plate trap with fruit bait.
- ii. Regularly inspect and replace/clean traps as required.

Prevent spread

- i. Do not transfer infested combs, bees or equipment to healthy colonies.
- ii. Inspect colonies and equipment before movement between apiaries.

Report for uploaay
on website submission
to CIO DVY.
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