



The Bees World



5th part: The life of beehives in 2021

The year 2021 was a difficult year, even disastrous, for the beekeeping world, and the 3 hives of Canon Bretagne were not spared

In fact, the weather conditions were not there during the first half of the year. The cold, rainy and windy months of this period were not conducive to the bees coming out while the vegetation was in bloom. Also, little by little, the food reserves in the hives were reduced, or even completely consumed.

This was the case for a hive in Canon Bretagne where, within 15 days, the entire population died of hunger.

Unlike in 2020, following the last visit in June, we found that few frames of the 2 frame medium supers were filled and sealed. As there was no more plant species to bloom around the site this season, we decided to schedule a honey harvest for July 10, 2021.

We organized this session with the help of the beekeeper, Jérémy DELOBEL from the BEETOBEE company, and his assistant Raphaël.

13 Canon Bretagne volunteers accompanied by their families, a total of 35 people including 15 children, took part in this morning.

This activity took place in three highlights :

➤ **Workshop « From flower to honey » :**

This interactive workshop allowed the public to discover the role of the bee in pollination and the process of transforming nectar into honey. Young and old alike participated with enthusiasm.



From Flower



... to Honey



➤ Workshop « Honey harvesting » :

Bad weather unfortunately accompanied us throughout this morning. Also, in order not to disturb the bees too much by opening the hives too long in the rain, the beekeeper was the only one to collect the frames for the medium supers.

During this time, his assistant explained the composition of a hive (the body of the hive, the hive, the 2 types of frames,...), but also the life in the hive with, among others, the "7 lives" of a bee (cleaner, nurse, storekeeper, builder, ventilator, scout, and forager).



To collect the honey contained in the frames extracted from the medium supers, 2 operations are necessary: uncapping and centrifugation.

As a reminder, the **uncapping** consists of removing the wax which closes each cell of the frame in order to release the honey, using an uncapping knife and a scratcher (cf. 4th section of the world of bees).



Once the frames are uncapped, we proceed to **centrifugation** to extract the honey. We place the frame into a honey extractor and spin the frames, forcing the honey to the walls of the drum where they drip to the bottom. The extractor's drum should have a spigot for releasing the honey.

Once the honey is stored in the extractor, all that remains is to put it in a bottle.



Once the potting is done, all that remains is to do the labeling.



Each participant in this morning walked away with a honey bottle.

As reported, the harvest was not very good, only 180 bottles.

Also, we were not able to do as last year, namely to distribute a honey bottle to each Canon Bretagne employee at the end of the year.

This year 2021 was marked by recognition of our CSR actions: Winner of the Enterprise Award for the 15th edition of the Bretons Trophies. In order to thank the employees who took part in one of the CSR actions, the Management decided to offer them a honey bottle.



➤ **Workshop « Honey tasting » :**

We could taste honey from specific flowers (acacia, orange tree, sunflower, lavender, rapeseed, rosemary, thyme and chestnut) and “all flower” honey.



All the participants enjoyed this very enriching morning. They learned about the world of bees, and especially discovered the harvest of honey..

Thus ends the 5th part of the Bee World.