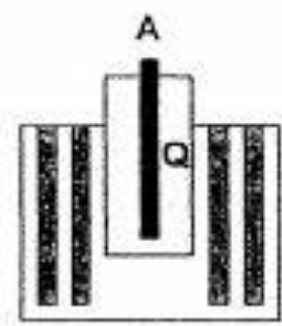


Comb-trapping for Varroa Control

2/7/18

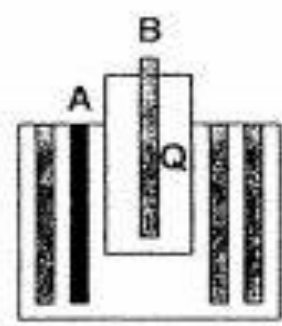
Day 0



Trap the queen on Frame A

12/7/18

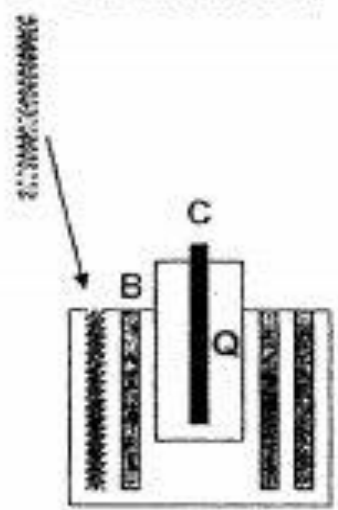
Day 9



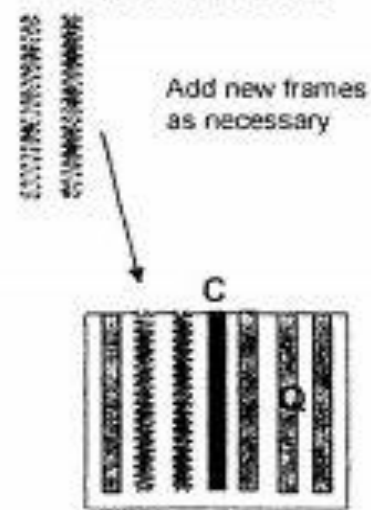
Move the queen to Frame B
Leave A in the hive

22/7/18

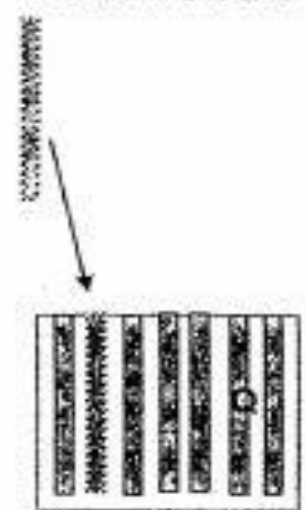
Day 18



Move the queen to Frame C
Leave B in the hive
Take A out and destroy



Release the queen
Leave C in the hive
Take B out and destroy



Take C out and destroy

The Brood Trap Procedure

Have the following extra equipment available

- A diary!
- A brood frame trap, suitable for the brood frame in use
- Rubber bands, marking pen
- A queen cage
- 3 new brood frames, fitted with foundation or clean drawn comb

Optionally, also have to hand an extra queen excluder (QX) and empty brood box. This procedure can be performed solo but is best carried out by two people.

Method:

Day 0 – start

- Remove supers and QX, examine the brood frames looking for 3 things
 - The queen (best if she is brightly marked)
 - A frame with SPACE, for the queen to continue to lay
 - Ensure absence of swarm cells, remove if found.
- Place/release the queen on to the selected frame, with laying space
- Place that frame in the brood trap and secure using rubber bands
- Mark the frame top-bar "A", replace in centre of brood nest
- It will be necessary to remove one frame to accommodate the extra thickness; an outer stores frame probably. Place this in bee-proof storage, it can go back later. (day 18)
- Replace QX (not essential) and supers, close up.

Day 9

- Remove supers and QX
- Check all brood frames, remove any q-cells
- Select a brood frame with space and mark "B" on the top-bar
- Remove frame "A" from the trap
- Transfer the queen to frame "B"
- Wrap the brood trap around "B" and secure with rubber bands
- Replace both frames in the brood box
- Replace supers, close up

Day 18

- As for day 9, move the queen from frame "B" to new frame "C"
- Leave frame "B" in the hive
- Remove frame "A", insert the "spare" frame removed at day 0
- Replace supers, close up

Day 27

- Release the queen from frame "C", remove the frame trap
- Leave frame "C" in the hive
- Remove frame "B"
- Insert 2 foundation frames to compensate for removed frame and trap
- Replace QX, supers

Day 36

- Remove frame "C", insert new frame

Procedure complete. Once settled down, re-check varroa population via a daily mite drop assessment.

Operational notes

- The 3 frames, 9 day interval format is recommended for best efficacy and larger frames
- Smaller frames (eg BS National) or timing considerations may be accommodated using 4 frames, with 7-day intervals
- Definitely better to work with a second beekeeper
- The transfer can be more safely accomplished if the two frames concerned are placed in an empty brood box, above a queen excluder, on the brood box proper.
- At day 9, with the queen prevented from visiting frames which contained eggs/young larvae, the bees may produce emergency queen cells. Check first that the queen is indeed okay within the trap frame then remove ALL emergency cells.
- No need to repeat this process at subsequent changes
- The queen needs to access BOTH sides of the trap frame, if not chewed at the side or bottom to allow this, push a finger through the comb.
- The trap frame protrudes below a normal frame, it may be necessary slightly to raise the brood box on battens to allow for this.

