



**Statement re:
'Pesticide exposure in honey bee results in increased
levels of the gut pathogen, *Nosema*' by Pettis et al.**

The BBKA is aware of the publication of research carried out by Jeff Pettis et al at the University of Maryland in the USA in conjunction with the Bee Research Laboratory at Beltsville.

This laboratory-based work reports the finding that *Nosema* infections increased significantly in bees fed pollen patties 'spiked' with the pesticide Imidacloprid and later fed with a sugar solution containing *Nosema* spores. Control bees which were fed pollen patties without the pesticide but were fed the sugar solution containing *Nosema* spores, had fewer *Nosema* infections.

The relevance to bee health of this interesting study has now to be established. The authors rightly emphasise the importance of the national regulatory bodies taking these findings into account in re-evaluating the regulatory data that should be provided in the approval of new classes of pesticides such as the neonicotinoids. The BBKA will be pressing the UK Chemicals Regulation Directorate, who are the UK Government's agency responsible for the approval and regulation of the use of pesticides in the UK, to review urgently these new findings and to publicly comment on this paper and further to indicate whether there are any regulatory implications for pesticides and honey bees in the UK.

The paper is published with open access at Springerlink.com

Its full citation is Pesticide exposure in honey bee results in increased levels of the gut pathogen *Nosema*. Pettis JS, van Engelsdorp D, Johnson J and Dively D. *Naturwissenschaften* DOI 10.1007/s0014-011-0881-1

29 January 2012

