

## STUDIES REGARDING THE INFLUENCE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES IN COMBATING THE PESTS FROM THE SUN FLOWER FIELDS, UPON THE DECREES OF THE BEE FAMILIES IN THE YEARS 2006-2007

### CERCETĂRI PRIVIND INFLUENȚA PRODUSELOR CHIMICE PESTICIDE ÎN COMBATAREA DĂUNĂTORILOR DIN CULTURA DE FLOAREA SOARELUI, ASUPRA DEPOPULĂRII FAMILIILOR DE ALBINE ÎN ANII 2006-2007

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to observe the quantity of younglings raised by the bee family studied in the blooming period of the sun flower culture, in the conditions in which the seed was treated with the imidacloprid pesticide (Gaucho 600g/l) and the BACTERIAL prochloraz (Mirage 450g/l). In July 2006 and 2007, for 4 weeks 5 studied bee families where the aspect of their behavior during the sunflower springing and under the aspect of offspring deposits. As a witness, the gathered pollen from the acacia blooming was taken. During the sun flower culture blooming the maximum number of 1800mm<sup>2</sup> surface covered with offspring was recorded, at the bee family nr.5. All the offspring frames where measured from all the studied hides and one could observe that the bee family where during 15 minutes more than 650 bees where observed coming into the hide with pollen and nectar loaded in the morning, the surface of frames covered with offspring was bigger than at the other hides the maximum value recorded was of 1800mm<sup>2</sup> in the first week and at the bee family where less than 500 bees where counted entering the hide pollen and nectar loaded the surface covered with offspring was of maximum 1300mm<sup>2</sup>. The work is original through his methods of research, the counting of the bees and the measurements of the surfaces covered with younglings raised by the bee family in this period. This work is very important because through such researches it can be demonstrated if one product is toxic for the bees or not.

**Rezumat:** Scopul cercetărilor a fost observarea cantității de puieți crescuți de familiile de albine studiate în perioada de înflorire a culturii de floarea soarelui, în condițiile în care sămânța a fost tratată cu insecticidul imidacloprid (Gaucho 600g/l) și fungicidul prochloraz (Mirage 450g/l). În luna iulie 2006 și 2007, timp de 4 săptămâni 5 familii de au fost cercetate sub aspectul comportamentului în perioada de înflorire a floarea soarelui și al gradului de acoperire al fagurilor cu puieți. Ca și martor sa folosit culesul din timpul înfloririi florilor de la salcâm. În perioada de înflorirea culturii de floarea soarelui înregistrându-se valoarea maximă de 1800mm<sup>2</sup> suprafață ocupată cu puieți pe fagure, la familia cu numărul 5. S-a observat că, la familiile de albine unde au fost observate timp de 15 minute intrând în stup un număr de peste 650 de albine încărcate cu polen dimineața, suprafața ramelor acoperită cu puieți a fost mare respectiv valoarea maximă înregistrată a fost de 1800 mm<sup>2</sup> în prima săptămână, iar la familiile de albine la care au fost numărate sub 500 de albine intrate în stup cu plin la aceleași ore, suprafața de puieți măsurată a fost de maxim 1300 mm<sup>2</sup>. Lucrarea este originală prin modul de cercetare, respectiv numărarea albinelor și măsurarea suprafețelor de puieți crescuți de către familiile de albine în această perioadă. Dau importanță acestei lucrări, pentru că prin astfel de cercetări se poate demonstra dacă un produs este toxic pentru albine s-au nu.

**Key words:** substance, bee, Younglings, measure, decrees

**Cuvinte-cheie:** substanță, albină, puieți, măsurat, depopulare.

#### INTRODUCTION

Bees are poichilothermic insects with wings from the Hymenoptera category, from the

Apidae family, the *Apis mellifera* species, entering so in to the category of polygamic, social insects. The necessity to concentrate in a group is due to their organism, which can not allow the insect to keep her body temperature required to survive (M. BURA și colab. - 2005; AL MĂRGHITAȘ și colab. - 1995, 2005). A bee isolated from the colony is like a cell from an organism; she can act only together with other bees, even if she gets the best food. From this cause the bees that remain behind after leaving a provisory dwelling search for other bees with whom to associate in order to survive (GUEZ DAVID -1992).

Considering the three main factors which form the integrity of a bee colony (the working bees, the mother bee, and the queen), the colony can be seen as whole biologic unitary, the collective life but also the individual are leaded by unconditioned, instinctively reflexes which are inborn and which never will change and are transmitted hereditary (HAINZL D. 1996).

The intoxication of the bees can not be fought at present, death occurring in short time. The intoxication of the bees are determined by the contact or ingestion of organic or inorganic substances, which deeply affect their cellular metabolism and vital functions. The acute and chronic intoxications create a minimum field of resistance against the aggressiveness of the infectious and parasitic agents (R. WOLFGANG - 1996).

The fungus, the toxic substances which destroy the parasites harmful for the plants, the acaricide insecticide which destroys the insects of some fruit trees, the insecticides who destroy the harmful insect and the herbicides who destroy the weeds are combined with arsenic, phosphorus, chlorine or sulphur or sometime with two or three of this toxic substances (GH. POPESCU - 2005; C. FLECHE-1995).

Generally in such occasions, the strongest bee families have the biggest loss. It has been calculated that from the strongest perish up to 68%, from the middle one up to 22% and from the weakest only 10% (M. L. WINSTON -1993).

The substances used in the protection of the plants intoxicate through contact, the substance traverses the chitinous tissue through pores and intoxicates the insect. Others have effect through ingestion, through the introduction of the poison in the digestive tube. The most have a mixed action, through ingestion but also through contact. (AL. L. MĂRGHITAȘ, 2002).

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS OF RESEARCH**

Researches have been made in Bulgarus locality in Timis county. For the experiment a field of bloomed sun flower has been used. The seed of this hybrid has been treated against pests from the soil with insecticide based on imidacloprid (Gaucho), and prochloraz substance (Mirage).

The *Brassica* cultivated field is situated at a big distance from the hive and because of this the hive was brought near the field and after three weeks from blooming it was treated with fipronil (Regent) against the harmful creatures (*Athalia rosae* – *Brassica wasp* and *Meligethes aeneus* – shiny bug) The researches took place for three weeks.

At each hive the number of frames covered with younglings for three weeks time, and the younglings were also measured in height and width on both sides of the honey comb to determine the surface covered with them (mm<sup>2</sup>) there were measured the hatched and the unhatched offspring. There have been made three observations concerning the younglings in the interval of seven days in a period of three weeks at each family.

As a witness probe was used the values of the surfaces covered with younglings in the blooming period of the acacia flower; the nectar gathered from the acacia flower is considered in literature to be biologic, because these trees are not maintained with chemical products.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In 2006 research upon the offspring of the studied bee families was made, these were watched during the whole period of the sunflower culture blooming, in Julie the offspring was measured with the ruler and the surface covered with it was determined. During the acacia blooming period detailed research upon the surface covered with offspring was made so that we could have a term of comparison (Table nr.1).

Table 1

The medium surface covered with offspring (mm<sup>2</sup>) for the studied bee families On 09.05.2006

Studied family	Number of analyzed frame.							
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>
F <sub>1s</sub>	1290	1440	1238	1400	1350	900	1552	1370
F <sub>2s</sub>	1142	1406	808	1320	1260	1208	1340	1360
F <sub>3s</sub>	1450	904	425	720	1160	620	1330	1208
F <sub>4s</sub>	1360	1600	1040	1450	1240	800	1456	1350
F <sub>5s</sub>	1500	1500	790	900	950	680	1380	1420

In order to observe if the imidacloprid and prochloraz concentration used for the treatment of the sunflower seed got into the hide and if it has influenced the offspring in the frames observations in a interval of 7 days where made during the 3 weeks when the sunflower culture bloomed. During the 3 weeks every frame of each hide was studied, and the surface covered with offspring was measured and the medium sum of offspring on one frame was made. The procedure was repeated for each frame covered with offspring from each studied hide. The result obtained in the first week of study is viewable in table 2.

Table 2

The medium surface covered with offspring (mm<sup>2</sup>) for the studied bee families On 05.07. 2006

Studied family	Number of analyzed frame.							
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>
F <sub>1fs</sub>	1350	1356	644	960	1100	620	1680	1250
F <sub>2fs</sub>	1400	1450	900	1000	830	700	1540	1280
F <sub>3fs</sub>	850	1285	700	850	960	750	1000	1300
F <sub>4fs</sub>	1656	1580	700	1240	1400	930	1500	1602
F <sub>5fs</sub>	1360	1600	840	1300	1200	790	1700	1800

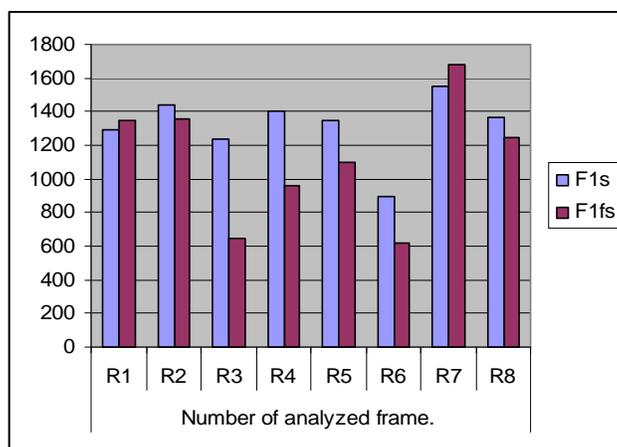


Fig.1 The graphic representation of the surface covered with offspring for f1 in the first week of the acacia blooming compared with the first week of the sunflower blooming

In fig nr 1 the studied bee family numbered with 1 is viewable, family witch in the first week o the acacia blooming had frames with a bigger surface coverage of offspring than in the first week of the sun flower blooming. The maximum value of offspring registered for the acacia blooming was of 1552 mm<sup>2</sup> and the minimum was of 900mm<sup>2</sup>. In the period of the sunflower blooming the maximum number of offspring registered on the surface of one frame was of 1680 mm<sup>2</sup>, and the minimum number was of 620 mm<sup>2</sup>. Out of this graphic we can observe that at the beginning of the first week of acacia blooming, the studied hides where better provide with offspring, and they where better grouped on the frame, than in the first week of the sunflower bloomig.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of study on an interval of one week after the ending of the acacia collecting, the bee families behaved normal, they continued to collect pollen and nectar, and the surface on the frame covered with offspring got bigger. The result of this study is present in table nr3.

Table 3

The medium surface covered with offspring (mm<sup>2</sup>) for the studied bee families On 20.05.2006

Studied family	Number of analyzed frame							
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>
F <sub>1s</sub>	1640	1430	950	1300	1660	1050	1620	1520
F <sub>2s</sub>	1600	1604	1250	1580	1400	985	1300	1508
F <sub>3s</sub>	1230	1500	1680	1540	1300	950	1080	1300
F <sub>4s</sub>	1620	1600	740	1630	1280	640	1650	1700
F <sub>5s</sub>	1550	1530	980	1520	1640	420	880	-

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of study upon the bee families in the period of the sunflower culture blooming the bees behaved normal, they continued to getter pollen and to deposit it on the frames, the queen hade a normal behavior, the nanny bees kept feeding the offspring, and the hole hide had a normal behavior in this period. The results of this observation can be viewed in table nr 4.

Table 4

The medium surface covered with offspring (mm<sup>2</sup>) for the studied bee families On 15.07.2006

Studied family	Number of analyzed frame							
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>
F <sub>1fs</sub>	1320	1510	620	1200	1300	510	1600	1310
F <sub>2fs</sub>	1004	1280	850	950	1200	700	1300	1360
F <sub>3fs</sub>	1410	1350	920	840	1230	840	1640	1360
F <sub>4fs</sub>	1500	1520	900	1300	1200	940	1480	1560
F <sub>5fs</sub>	1360	1420	960	1560	950	820	1760	1650

For a better observation of the offspring evolution from the same bee family, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of research, in the 2 collecting periods of the same year, we will represent the values in to ea graph Fig.2

At the end of the acacia blooming period the maximum number of offspring measured was 1660 mm<sup>2</sup> on one frame and the end of the sunflower blooming period when the maximum number of offspring pro frame was of 1600, and the minimum number registered was of 510 mm<sup>2</sup> of offspring pro frame at the end of the sunflower blooming period.

Out of this graphics we can observe that the imadacloprid insecticide (Gaucho) used for the treatment of the sunflower seeds at the planting, for the combat of harmful insects of the soil didn't affected the bees witch collected pollen and the offspring on the frame. But the number of offspring grown during the sunflower blooming period didn't reached the number of offspring grown during the acacia collecting period, probable the remains of the insecticide has a effect upon the queen, witch reflects in the quantity of the offspring during that period.

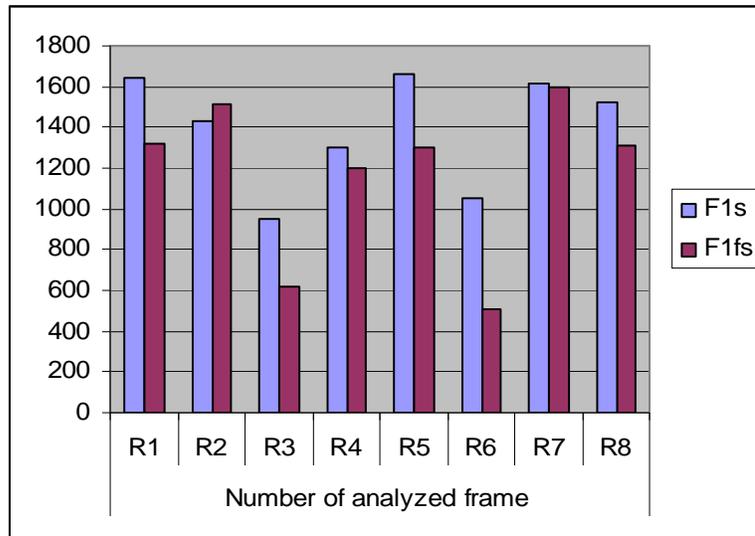


Fig. 2 The graphic representation of the offspring covered surface for f1 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week from the beginning of the acacia blooming, compared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the sunflower blooming

In 2007 in order to see if the concentration of imidacloprid and prochloraz used to treat the sunflower seeds has reached into the hide, and if it had an influence upon the offspring on the frame observations were made in an interval of 7 days at all the studied hives during 3 weeks when the sunflower cultured was blooming. During this 3 weeks every frame out of each hive was studied, and the surface covered with offspring was measured and the sum of offspring on each frame was made. The procedure was repeated for each frame covered with offspring from each hive studied. The results obtained in the first week of research are present in table nr 5.

Table 5

The medium surface covered with offspring (mm<sup>2</sup>) for the studied bee families on 02.07. 2007.

Studied families	Number of analyzed frame							
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>
F <sub>1fs</sub>	700	960	850	1000	1300	1300	850	750
F <sub>2fs</sub>	900	830	1400	1540	1450	1280	1000	700
F <sub>3fs</sub>	644	1100	1350	1680	1356	1250	960	620
F <sub>4fs</sub>	700	1400	1656	1500	1580	1602	1240	930
F <sub>5fs</sub>	840	1200	1360	1700	1600	1800	1300	790

In fig.3 the studied bee family is shown, numbered with 1 witch in the first week of the acacia blooming period had a high number of offspring on a frame, than in the first week of the sunflower blooming period. The maximum number of offspring registered for the acacia blooming was of 1450 mm<sup>2</sup>, and the minimum was of 460 mm<sup>2</sup>. In the sunflower blooming period the maximum number of offspring was of 1300 mm<sup>2</sup>.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of research upon the bee families during the sunflower culture blooming period the bees behaved normally, they continued to gather pollen to deposit it in frames, the queen behaved normal, the nanny bees kept feeding the offspring and the hole hive behaved normal in this period. The obtained results of this observation are present in table nr.6.

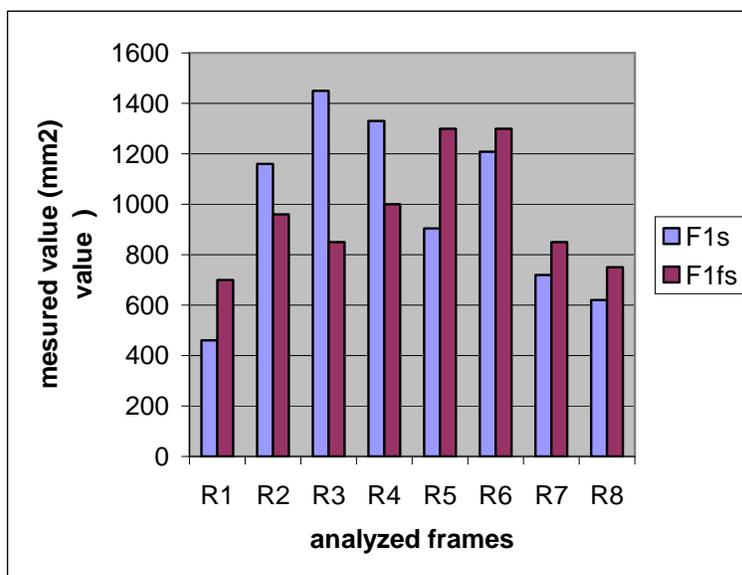


Fig. 3 The graphic representation of the offspring covered surface for f1 in the first week

Table 6

The medium surface covered with offspring (mm2) for the studied bee families on 16.VII.2007

Studied family	Number of analyzed frame.							
	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>
F <sub>1fs</sub>	850	1200	1004	1300	1280	1360	950	700
F <sub>2fs</sub>	620	1300	1320	1600	1510	1310	1200	510
F <sub>3fs</sub>	920	1230	1410	1640	1350	1360	840	840
F <sub>4fs</sub>	900	1200	1500	1480	1520	1560	1300	940
F <sub>5fs</sub>	960	950	1360	1760	1420	1650	1560	820

In figure nr 4 the frames covered with offspring from the family nr 1 are represented at the end of the acacia blooming period, when a maximum number of surface covered with offspring was of 1604mm<sup>2</sup>, and the end of the sunflower blooming period when the maximum number of offspring on one frame was of 1360mm<sup>2</sup>. Out of this graphic we can observe that the imidacloprid insecticide (Gaucho) used for the treatment of the sunflower seeds didn't disturbed the bees witch where collecting pollen or the offspring on the frames. But the number of offspring razed up during the sunflower blooming period didn't manage to overcome the number of offspring during the acacia collecting period. At the end of the sunflower collecting the studied families where characterized by a visible depopulation.

Also trough this study, we can say that the depopulation of the studied families at the end of the sunflower blooming period, as well as the bees observed giving signs of confusedness, are the effects of the remaining of the insecticide. In the specific literature there is mentioned that after studies in France during 2002-2006 imidacloprid and other chemic substances where found in most of the analyzed pollen. The French bee growers also mentioned a depopulation of the bee families at the end of the sunflower blooming period.

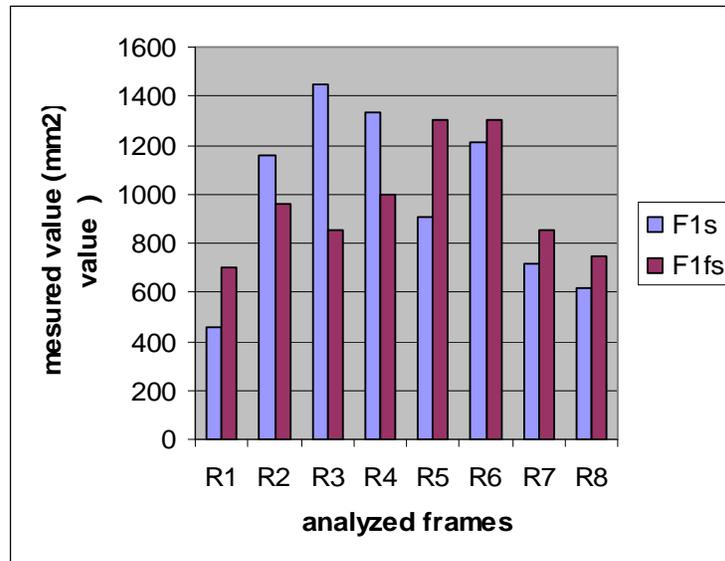


Fig 4 The graphic representation of the surface covered with offspring for f1 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week.

### CONCLUSIONS

- In the first 3 weeks from the sunflower blooming period, the substance imidacloprid (Gaucho) didn't affect the collecting bees or their offspring (1800mm2 offspring on fram).
- The remaining of the imidacloprid (Gaucho) has a effect upon the queens of the families, witch is reflected upon the quantity of the offspring razed in this period – minimum surface of 620 mm2.
- The imibacloprid resides dos not kill the bees on the field or the offspring of different age, but it effects trough depopulation trough the modification of their behavior for example trough confusion of the bees, effect observed at the end of the sunflower blooming as well in 2006 as in 2007.

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