

# PRESS RELEASE

[embargoed until 00:01 GMT on 30/1/13]

## **The COLOSS *BEEBOOK* is here!**

The COLOSS "*BEEBOOK*: standard methodologies for *Apis mellifera* research" edited by Vincent Dietemann of the Swiss Bee Research Centre, Agroscope Liebefeld-Posieux, Peter Neumann of the University of Bern, Switzerland, and Jamie Ellis of the University of Florida, USA, will be published both online in the *Journal of Apicultural Research* and as a hard copy book for use at the laboratory bench.

The COLOSS "*BEEBOOK*" is a unique venture that aims to standardise methods for studying the honey bee. It will be a practical manual compiling standard methods in all fields of research on the honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, and become the definitive, but evolving, research manual, composed of 33 peer-reviewed chapters authored by more than 160 of the world's leading honey bee experts. Chapters will describe methods for studying honey bee biology, methods for understanding honey bee pests and pathogens, and methods for breeding honey bees. The initial *BEEBOOK* project will be divided into three volumes: The COLOSS *BEEBOOK*, Volume I: Standard methods for *Apis mellifera* research; The COLOSS *BEEBOOK*, Volume II: Standard methods for *Apis mellifera* pest and pathogen research; and The COLOSS *BEEBOOK*, Volume III: Standard methods for *Apis mellifera* product research.

The first group of papers belonging to both Volumes I and II are published today in a Special Issue of the *Journal of Apicultural Research* as Open Access papers, and the remainder will be published later in 2013, at the same time as the production of Volumes I and II as hard copy. Volume III will follow in 2014. These thirteen papers have been written by 98 authors representing 25 different countries, illustrating the unprecedented degree of international collaboration that the crisis in honey bees and the COLOSS network has engendered.

COLOSS COST Action Chair Prof. Peter Neumann says: "The editors and author team hope that the *BEEBOOK* will serve as a reference tool for honey bee and other researchers globally. We hope that the honey bee research community will embrace this tool and work to improve it. The online platform is open for everyone to use and further contribute to the development of our research field".

[Ends]

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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### NOTES FOR EDITORS:-

1. The article "An update on the COLOSS network and the *BEEBOOK*: standard methodologies for *Apis mellifera* research" is available at:-

<http://www.ibra.org.uk/articles/COLOSS-and-the-BEEBOOK>

2. The COLOSS *BEEBOOK* - Part 1 will be available at:-

<http://www.ibra.org.uk/articles/JAR-52-1-2013-BEEBOOK>

3. COLOSS is a network funded by the European Union COST Programme (Action FA0803) and the Ricola Foundation – Nature & Culture, which aims to explain and prevent massive honey bee colony losses. The network does not directly support science, but aims to coordinate international research activities across Europe and worldwide, promoting cooperative approaches and a research programme with a strong focus on the transfer of science into beekeeping practice. COLOSS has more than 300 members drawn from 60 countries worldwide. It is chaired by Prof. Peter Neumann of the University of Bern, Switzerland. Website <http://www.coloss.org/>

4. The International Bee Research Association ("IBRA") is the world's longest established apicultural research publishers and promotes the value of bees by providing information on bee science and beekeeping worldwide.

5. IBRA publishes the peer reviewed scientific journal the *Journal of Apicultural Research* founded by IBRA in 1962. It includes original research articles, theoretical papers; scientific notes and comments; together with authoritative reviews on scientific aspects of the biology, ecology, natural history, conservation and culture of all types of bee.

6. IBRA publishes and sells books on bee science, bee conservation and beekeeping and also provides bee information services. IBRA is a Registered Charity, and its Council of trustees boasts some of the world's leading bee scientists.

7. Membership of IBRA costs just £33.00 annually. Membership benefits include receipt of four quarterly issues of *Bee World*, our accessible and topical journal on latest bee research, news, reviews and other relevant information for the bee scientist, beekeeper, and anyone with an interest in bees.

International Bee Research Association

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