

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #34a

Another Saturday has rolled around and issue 34 is a bit different from previous articles. If any of you have a copy of a CD I sold thru a number of vendors you can see since 2001 I have reported on honey sources in the section called 301. I was fascinated in the work being done in Europe on honey identification and specific ways to determine the purity of honey and the locations in the world where honey was coming from. The big issue in those days was honey being imported from China. I bought almost any book with information about honey testing and pollen sampling I could afford. Very little of that has been done in the U.S. One of the most valuable books is a paper back book published by the Agriculture and Agri-Food Research Branch in Ottawa, Ontario in 1993.

If any publication of Pollen grains of Canadian honey plants can be found for sale, it will cost a pretty penny to get it.

One statement in the introduction of that book is worth quoting "Canada and the United States make limited use of pollen grain analysis." If one is exporting honey to any of the following countries the standard for honey is much higher." Another quote "The countries that routinely examine samples of exported honey or domestic honey are mainly in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia."

The Canadians have a Permanent Pollen Grain Collection Center of herbarium plant specimens deposited in the Centre for Land And Biological Resources Research in Ottawa, Ont.. The book is based on slides of pollen grains preserved for comparative study from the many honey plants that grow in Canada. The book is very specific to preparing slides of honey samples to determine pollen content.

As I understand for the classification of honey, the sample must contain at least 51% of an identifiable pollen source from a particular plant to be identified as from a specific plant source. Thus, if a honey is sold as clover honey, it must at least contain 51% of its pollen grains identified as from a clover source. Otherwise it must be classified as wildflower honey.

This additional information came in after the original post.

Geoffrey Leister (geoffleister@mac.com)To:you Details

Good afternoon Dana,

Thank you for your continued weekly publications. Always a good read.

Here is link to a downloadable and free 1993 PDF copy of Pollen grains of Canadian honey plants: <<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/b/5020/files/2015/06/pollengrainsofcanadianhoneyplants-1k433yl.pdf>>

Bee well and stay safe,

Geoff

Geoffrey Leister

Alamance County Beekeepers