the laboratory, pseudoscorpions did not prey on live varroa mites and lesser wax moth larvae but on dead honey bee larvae and live psocids. The presence of pseudoscorpions below the cover boards of hives in the field suggests that pseudo-scorpions may feed on dead bees that have been squashed between the cover board and frames. They concluded that unfortunately, pseudoscorpions associated with *A. cerana* do not seem to act as a biocontrol of varroa mites or wax moth larvae but instead prey on dead honey bees, bee larvae and psocids.

Finally, the emerging gut parasite *Nosema* ceranae has already been detected in adults of managed A. cerana, managed non-native A. mellifera and in wild A. florea and A. dorsata populations in the north of Thailand. As a comparison, Suraporn et al. (2013) determined the prevalence of *Nosema* in a number of unmanaged (wild and feral) colonies of several species of honey bees in North-

east Thailand. They found that *Nosema* infection is not widespread across the year in Thai honey bees, possibly because they, particularly *A. florea*, possess some degree of resistance to *Nosema*, but possibly also because wild colonies may suffer lower prevalence of disease than managed colonies or those maintained by beekeepers at much greater densities than those found naturally in the wild.

References

Sahebzadeh, N; NurAzura, A; Lau, W H; Mardan, M; Ali, M A; Tan, S G (2013) Genetic structure of Malaysian *Apis dorsata* aggregations in Marang district (Terengganu). *Journal of Apicultural Research* 52(5): (in press).

Suraporn, S; Natsopoulou, M E; Doublet, V; McMahon, D P; Paxton, R J (2013) Nosema ceranae is not detected in honey bees (Apis spp.) of northeast Thailand. Journal of Apicultural Research 52(5): (in press).

Suwannapong, G; Maksong, S; Yemor, T; Junsuri, N; Benbow, M E (2013) Three species of native Thai honey bees exploit overlapping pollen resources: identification of bee flora from pollen loads and midguts from Apis cerana, A. dorsata, and A. florea. Journal of Apicultural Research 52(5): (in press).

Tajabadi, N; Mardan, M; Manap, M Y A; Mustafa, S (2013) Molecular identification of *Lactobacillus* spp. isolated from the honey comb of the honey bee (*Apis dorsata*) by 16S rRNA gene sequencing. *Journal of Apicultural Research* 52(5): (in press).

Thapa, R; Wongsiri, S; Lee, M L; Choi, Y-S (2013) Predatory behaviour of pseudoscorpions (*Ellingsenius indicus*) associated with Himalayan *Apis cerana*. *Journal of Apicultural Research* 52(5): (in press).

Beekeeping News

New Zealand's Honey Bee Stamps

The creation of a special postage stamp is a high profile way of bringing to the notice of the public some element of the history, culture or economy of a country. New Zealand has awarded that honour to the honey bee. Honey bees were introduced to North Island in 1839, South Island in 1842 and 2013 marks the Centenary of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association. Agriculture and horticulture are very important to the country's economy and the part played by bees in these sectors is vital to success.

There are five stamps in the set with the various denominations contributing, in sequence, to a narrative the tells the story of the work done by bees.

70c Stamp

A field bee collecting nectar and, in the process, carrying out the vital act of pollination.

NZ\$1.40 Stamp

The return to the hive of the foraging bees laden with pollen and nectar.



NZ\$1.90 Stamp

Inside the hive worker bees transfer the nectar to the storage cells of the comb and in the process convert it into honey by the addition of enzymes and the evaporation of excess moisture.

NZ\$2.40 Stamp

This depicts the beekeeper harvesting the honey.

NZ\$2.90 Stamp

The ready to eat end product. Between 9,000 and 12,000 tonnes of honey are produced annually in New Zealand and of this between one third and a half is exported.

Collectors interested can contact: www.nzpost.co.nz/stamps Richard Jones