

Call for a worldwide experiment: do honeybees like New Year's Eve?

Daniel Favre & Olle Johansson

Experimental setup



The microphone is placed either through the nourishing hole, or in the bottom part of the hive.

Materials and methods

The device for the recording of the honeybees' sounds consists of a bidirectional compact microphone (Olympus ME-31) connected to a vocal recorder (Olympus LS-11). The microphone can be placed in the bottom part of the hive, or through the nourishing hole. The vocal recorder is connected to an external 4.5V battery or to an AC adapter (DC 4.5V).

The recorded signal can be digitized as a Waveform audio file, format sound file, with 44.1 kHz recording mode. The open-source, cross-platform audio software Audacity (<https://www.audacityteam.org/>) can be employed for the manual analysis of the sound files and for the generation of the audiograms and spectrograms.

Analysis of the results

The original sound files and/or the results (audiograms and spectrograms) can be:

- sent on CD-ROM or USB to: A.R.R.A., P.O. box 494, CH-1860 Aigle, Switzerland
- or
- sent via e-mail as .jpeg, .gif, or any other format to: science@alerte.ch

with the following page filled with the necessary pieces of information.

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Date:	...
Location and country:	...
Name of the experimenter(s):	...
E-mail:	...
Race of honeybees:	...
Start of the recording at:	... in the afternoon (<i>example: 16:30 in the afternoon</i>)
Name of sound file(s):	...
Observations:

Important!

Of course, control experiments can be - and should be - performed days before and after New Year's Eve to rule out that the presence of the microphone and recording equipment do not cause any disturbances vocalized by the bees.