

SUMMARY REPORT

Meeting on Chinese honey 2016

27 June 2016, Bologna, Italy.

CREA API Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria – Research unit for apiculture and sericulture with the cooperation of Lucia Piana, Piana Ricerca e consulenza srl, organised a melissopalynological workshop in Bologna on 27 June 2016.

The main goals of the workshop were to study two melissopalynological issues. Those ones regarding pollen analyses of Chinese honey and the harmonization of the melissopalynological nomenclature among the analytical laboratories.

Twenty-seven scientists from Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain participated. The participants were welcomed by the director in charge of CREA API Marco Lodesani who reviewed briefly the main topics of the workshop and described the world principal honey producers and described the actual trade honey market situation. He introduced the CREA API Laboratory and the analyses and research performed on bee products.

Peter Martin pointed out the principal honey types by geographical origin. Afterwards, Katja Bohm and Laurence Thomazo reported on pollen spectra of some monofloral and polyfloral honeys. Lucia Piana summarized the results of ring test on Chinese honey samples.

Katja Bohm, using a microscope and a projector, showed the sediment of some filtrated Chinese honeys. Then Lucia Piana showed the sediment of the four samples used in the ring test and described the most frequent pollen and of the main taxa found in honeys produced in China, in order to harmonize the results given among the analytical laboratories. The analysts decided to attribute to some pollen type "temporary" name to harmonize nomenclature waiting the correct identification.

Participants agreed to organize, through web communication, a second test like this first one on Chinese honey, on other honeys. Turkish and South-Central American honeys were the most proposed ones.

Coordinators:

- CREA (32 Research Units in 15 Research Centres) have many Research competencies as Cereals, grain food and forage, Olive, vegetable and seed oils, Fruit arboriculture, Wine, Citrus fruit, Horticulture and floriculture, Wood and industrial culture, Meat and dairy, Agro-industry processes. CREA API is the Research Unit for apiculture and sericulture. CREA API has many Research topics: characterization – protection and genetic improvement (*Apis m. ligustica* and *A.m.siciliana*); health control in beekeeping (tolerance characters towards diseases, *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies of natural substances against funghi (nosema) and bacteria, field and laboratory test of different substances against varroa, monitoring resistance to acaricides); optimization of production – products quality (evaluation and definition of food safety and quality requirements e.g. furosin, ethanol etc., methods of storing beehive products and their possible deteriorations, development of modern methods of analysis); bees and environment (trials using an environmental biomonitoring technique based on a unique; feature of honeybees). In the CREA API Laboratory (Accredited by ACCREDIA - Requirement of standards EN ISO/IEC 17025) several analyses are performed: sensory

analysis; physicochemical analysis of products; microbiological analysis of honey; palynological analysis; residue testing; diagnosis of bee diseases; biometric analyses on bees; genetic analyses.

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- Piana Ricerca e Consulenza srl is a laboratory and consultancy company offering a full range of services in the field of beekeeping. It holds a direct experience of over 30 years and the owning family has operated for more than a century in the same professional field. Technical knowledge and experience sharing are among the main goals of the company. It is specialized in performing melissopalynologic analysis of honey and other bee products. Furthermore it invests in the future of beekeeping by providing technical training programs, courses and scientific collaborations in the fields of sensory analysis and quality solutions for honey and bee's products.

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- The IHC Melissopalynology Group so far numbers over 40 members worldwide. The main scopes are to discuss melissopalynological issues and problems, and to develop cooperation among melissopalynological laboratories. If you are working on melissopalynology and wish to join the IHC Melissopalynology Group, please contact Maria Dimou.

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