

## Pyrethroid Resistant Varroa mites found in Tunisia

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Varroa destructor Anderson and Trueman 2000 was introduced into Tunisia in 1978 through the importation of bee colonies from Romania and caused heavy losses to the beekeeping sector. It was necessary to await the end of the Eighties to arrive to a satisfying control of this parasitosis. Currently, two varroacides are authorised in Tunisia for treatment of varroosis - Apistan® (pyrethroid) and Apivar (formamidine). In recent years, resistance to synthetic pyrethroid acaricides has become a major problem in the control of Varroa destructor Anderson and Trueman in many parts of the world. Using a simple field test, the Pettis or Beltsville Test, we wanted to confirm the observations of alert beekeepers having announced a worrying fall of activity of Apistan®. Bees were sampled from apiaries coming from different areas and the results show that the phenomenon of resistance to tau-fluvalinate, the active ingredient of Apistan®, is largely widespread with surprising levels. The misuse of the product is to be accused initially.

