Yves Le Conte

Research Director at the I.N.R.A. (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) and Head of the INRA Research Unit UR 406 ABEILLES ET ENVIRONNEMENT, in Avignon, France.

Key research and expertise

Since 1983, my research focuses on the biology and chemical ecology of honey bee colonies. With my team and collaborators, we have discovered a few pheromones from the brood and the adult bees that are at the center of social regulations in the honey bee colony. Those are primer and releaser pheromones. The primer effect had been studied at the molecular and physiological level. *Varroa destructor* is a serious threat of the honey bee in Europe and I am also very much involved in research dealing with host parasite relationships and also applied research to control the mite. Since the recent honey bee losses in Europe, I focus on studding the effects of different pathogens and parasites on bee health and the interactions with pesticides to understand honey bee decline from the molecular and socio-genomic level to colony level. I am also beekeeper since I was 12 years old.

Focus on Y. Le Conte's publications

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Le Conte Y, Huang ZY, Roux M, Zeng ZJ, Christides J-P, Bagneres A-G. (2015) Varroa destructor changes its cuticular hydrocarbons to mimic new hosts. Biol. Lett. 11: 20150233.

Mondet F., Alaux C., Severac D., Rohmer M., Mercer A.R., Le Conte Y. (2015) Antennae hold a key to *Varroa*-sensitive hygiene behaviour in honey bees. Scientific Reports, doi:10.1038/srep10454.

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