Asian honeybee Surveillance Report

January - March 2013



This publication has been compiled by Corey Bell of the Asian honey bee Transition to Management program, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

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Current Situation

The Asian honey bee (AHB) Known Infested Area (KIA) covers nearly 500 000ha but is restricted to an area around Cairns; north to Bonnie Doon (near Mossman), west of Atherton and Mareeba and south to South Johnstone.

In the current phase of the Transition to Management program, the program has ceased surveillance and responding to public reports in the KIA unless the report is considered a new incursion, where there is a risk of aided spread, or where the report is on the edge or outside of the KIA. In these instances officers respond in accordance with the "Responding to public notifications of Asian honey bee" policy.

Since the first detection of Asian honey bee (AHB) in Cairns in May 2007, a total of 820 swarms or nests have been detected.

During this reporting period 18 AHB swarms and nests were detected – 15 nests and 3 swarm. Due to the lag between detections, laboratory confirmation of identification and the processing of paperwork increasing over the Christmas holiday period 4 of the detections reported on in this period were from December but were not included in the previous surveillance report.

Surveillance

Floral Surveillance

Floral surveillance in the KIA has ceased.

Rainbow bee eater surveillance

Rainbow bee eater pellets were collected from four sites within the KIA

- 2 sites in Myola were negative for AHB
- 1 site in Clifton Beach was negative for AHB
- 1 site in Mareeba was positive for AHB

Reports from the public

The public made a total of 128 reports during the period 16 of which were positive detections

- 28 public reports in January
- 49 public reports in February
- 51 public reports in March

Detections

A total of 18 nests or swarms were detected during the reporting period. These detections included 15 nests and 3 swarms. The public reported 16 of these nests or swarms, 1 nest was detected as part of the port surveillance trials with ADAFF and the other incidentally while conducting surveillance efficacy trials (see Appendix 1 for details of all detections for the period).

Extensions of the Known Infested Area (KIA)

There was no extension of the KIA during the reporting period.

Detections outside of the Restricted Area (RA)

There were no detections outside of the RA during the reporting period.

Port area detections

Table 1: Port area detections

Nest IP	Suburb	Swarm/ Nest	Final detection	Found by	Initial detection date	Killed
811	PORTSMITH 4870	Nest	Beelined after the initial detection by AQDAFF	Leeon, Lisa; Morris, Dianne	18/12/2012*	Y
815	PORTSMITH 4870	Nest	Public report	Defranciscis, Lewis; Giblin, Arthur	11/02/2013	Υ
816	PORTSMITH 4870	Swarm	Public report	Defranciscis, Lewis; Docherty, Glen	28/02/2013	Υ

^{*} Due to the lag between detections, laboratory confirmation of identification and the processing of paperwork increasing over the Christmas holiday period 4 of the detections reported on in this period were from December but were not included in the previous surveillance report.

Appendix 1- List of detections

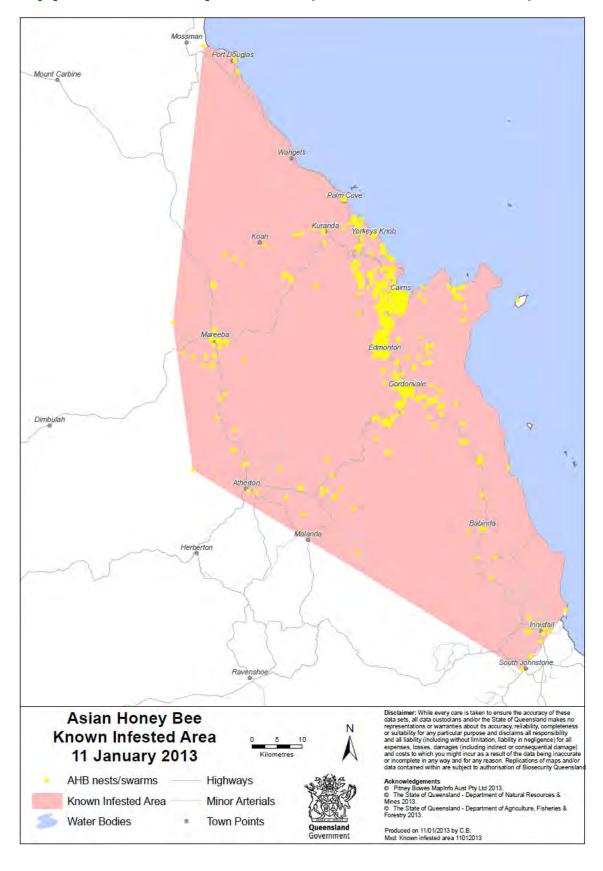
Table 2: All detections

Nest IP	Suburb	Swarm/Nest	Initial Detection Date	Initial Detection	Final Detection	Found By	Date Confirmed	Killed
808	KEWARRA BEACH 4879	Nest	28/11/2012	Public report	Public report	Leeon, Lisa; Morris, Dianne	07/12/2012*	Y
809	MAREEBA 4880	Nest	29/11/2012	Public report	Public report Bees found in a Banana Bag with Banana's in the packaging shed after been cut down	Leeon, Lisa; Morris, Dianne	07/12/2012*	Y
810	MAREEBA 4880	Nest	14/12/2012	Public report	Public report Used for Video	Wittmeier, Natalie	14/12/2012*	Y
811	PORTSMITH 4870	Nest	18/12/2012		FT Beelined Initial detection by ADAFF	Leeon, Lisa; Morris, Dianne	19/12/2012*	Y
812	EDGE HILL 4870	Nest	09/01/2013	Public report	Public report Nest transported in compost bin to WWTP for observation and trails	Defranciscis, Lewis; Leeon, Lisa	11/01/2013	Y
813	YORKEYS KNOB 4878	Nest	16/01/2013	Public report	Public report Not destroyed being used for a drone video	Morris, Dianne	25/01/2013	N
813	YORKEYS KNOB 4878	Nest	16/01/2013	Public report	Public report Nest used for filming of destruction and nest extraction	Morris, Dianne	25/01/2013	Y
814	LAKE BARRINE 4884	Nest	02/02/2013	Public report	Public report Found by QPWS Shane Vidler 40953768 ranger found comb and destroyed by ranger	Bell, Corey; Wittmeier, Natalie	08/02/2013	N
815	PORTSMITH 4870	Nest	11/02/2013	Public report	Public report	Defranciscis, Lewis; Giblin, Arthur	14/02/2013	Y
816	PORTSMITH 4870	Swarm	28/02/2013	Public report	Public report	Defranciscis, Lewis; Docherty, Glen	01/03/2013	Y
817	MANUNDA 4870	Nest	21/01/2013	Public report	Nest also used for filming of destruction and extraction	Defranciscis, Lewis	08/03/2013	Y
818	MANUNDA 4870	Nest	19/02/2013	Public report	Public report Nest retained for Ben Oldroyd and observation	Defranciscis, Lewis	08/03/2013	N
819	CAIRNS 4870	Nest	07/03/2013	Sweep	Other Found during Efficacy Trials	Defranciscis, Lewis	15/03/2013	N

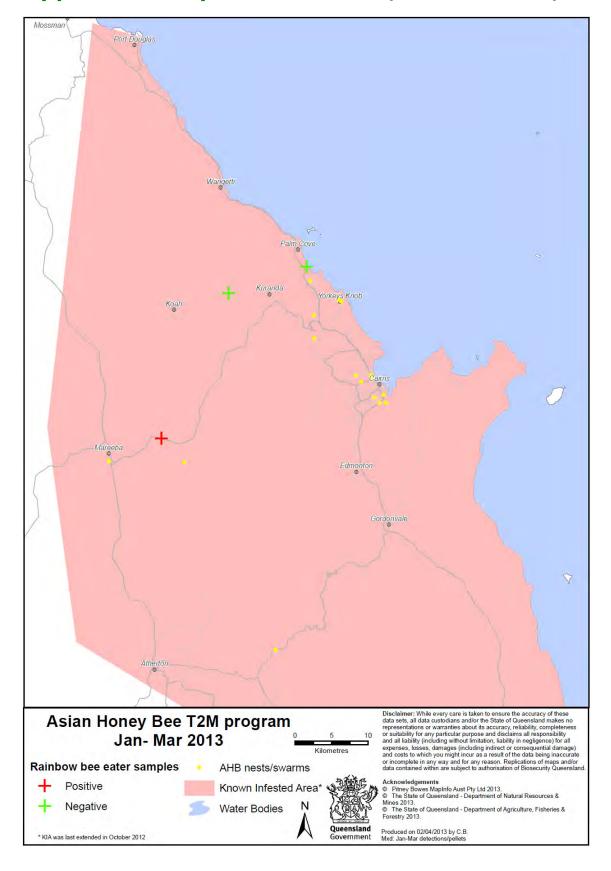
820	CAIRNS NORTH 4870	Nest	14/03/2013	Public report	Public report Nest ideal for CE filming - Abandoned home	Defranciscis, Lewis	15/03/2013	N
821	CAIRNS 4870	Nest	13/02/2013	Public report	Public report Nest was used for filming on last visit to collect sample nest had absconded 07/03/13	Defranciscis, Lewis	15/03/2013	N
822	YORKEYS KNOB 4878	Swarm	14/01/2013	Public report	Public report Swarm boxed and taken to Edmontone WWTP	Leeon, Lisa; Morris, Dianne	22/03/2013	Y
823	SMITHFIELD 4878	Nest	22/03/2013	Public report	Public report Pest controller killed the bees and owner informed that they had been there for 12months		22/03/2013	Y
824	CARAVONICA 4878	Swarm	26/03/2013	Public report	Public report Was inspected and kept for filming but destroyed by postman	Defranciscis, Lewis	28/03/2013	Y

^{*} Due to the lag between detections, laboratory confirmation of identification and the processing of paperwork increasing over the Christmas holiday period 4 of the detections reported on in this period were from December but were not included in the previous surveillance report.

Appendix 2- Map of KIA (and all detections)



Appendix 3 Map of detections (Jan-Mar 2013)



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