

Field study finds no negative impact on bees from neonicotinoid insecticide

In the last decade, the use of neonicotinoid insecticides increased significantly in the agricultural landscape and meanwhile considered a risk to honey bees. Besides the exposure to pesticides, colonies are treated frequently with various acaricides that beekeepers are forced to use against the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*.

Here we have analyzed the impact of a chronic exposure to sublethal concentrations of the common neonicotinoid thiacloprid (T) and the widely used acaricide γ -fluvalinate (synthetic pyrethroid, F) – applied alone or in combination – to honey bee colonies under field conditions.

...

We could not find a negative impact of the chronic neonicotinoid exposure on the population dynamics or overwintering success of the colonies, irrespective of whether applied alone or in combination with γ -fluvalinate.

This is in contrast to some results obtained from individually treated bees under laboratory conditions and confirms again an effective buffering capacity of the honey bee colony as a superorganism.

Yet, the underlying mechanisms for this social resilience remain to be fully understood.

Read full, original post: [Chronic exposure to a neonicotinoid pesticide and a synthetic pyrethroid in full-sized honey bee colonies](#)