

KEEP THE Bees BUZZING

WHAT DOES VARROA MITE LOOK LIKE?



ADULT FEMALE VARROA

Flat, oval shaped
& red-brown
in colour.

Measure around
1.1mm long &
1.5mm wide.

ADULT MALE VARROA

Lighter in colour
and smaller than
females.

VARROA EGGS

Milky-coloured
and rounded.

Measure around
0.5mm long.

Both sexes have
8 legs and an oval
shaped body.

The **Keep The Bees Buzzing** delivered by **BICWA**: A special project to inform and educate about Varroa destructor mite including practical resources for all beekeepers. The Varroa Mite Industry Preparedness Project was designed and developed in collaboration with Value Creators, supported by funding from the Agriculture Produce Commission's Beekeeper Committee.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF VARROA MITE



Adult female Varroa mites enter honey bee brood cells (especially drone brood) at the pre-capping stage and lay 2-5 eggs after the brood cell is capped.

0.5mm long eggs are laid on the bottom of the cells, on the walls, and some times directly on the larvae.

The first egg laid is a male, subsequent eggs are female.

Mating occurs in the brood cell. The male Varroa mite dies inside the cell shortly afterwards.

After hatching Varroa mites pass through two larval stages ('protonymph' and 'deutonymph') before developing into an adult.

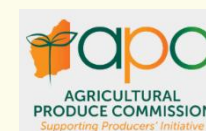
It takes about 5-6 days for male Varroa mites to develop and 7-8 days for female mites to develop.

Young female Varroa mites & the mother Varroa mites emerge from the brood cell with the emerging honey bee.

The daughter Varroa mites will lay eggs in other brood cells after 2 weeks.

Adult female Varroa mites usually live for 2 months, but can over winter between the sclerites of adult honey bees.

Source: www.beeaware.org.au



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KEEP THE
BOOS
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Varroa Mite Industry Preparedness Project was developed by the Bee Industry Council of Western Australia (BICWA), supported by funding from the Agriculture Produce Commission's Beekeeper Committee. The project aimed to educate beekeepers about the parasite known as the Varroa Destructor mite and provide information and practical resources for all beekeepers.

BICWA in collaboration with the team from Value Creators designed, developed and delivered the project.

