

First experiments on the diet of bumblebees
(*Bombus terrestris* auct.)

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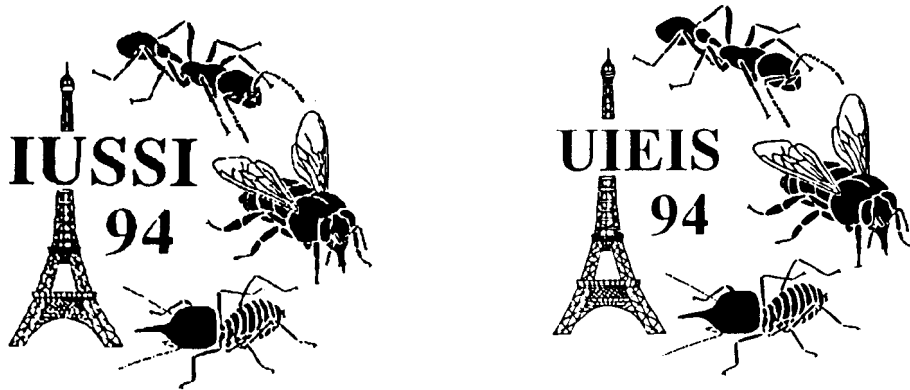
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Methods generally used to determine nutritional requirements of *Apis mellifera* are based on the observation of parameters which cannot be used with *Bombus terrestris*. It was then necessary to develop an original method to allow nutritional test between several bumblebees diets. Thanks to this new method we investigate supplemented bumblebees diets. Bumblebees were offered regimes consisting of sugar syrup and pollen or sugar syrup supplemented with three apparently deficient amino acids (valine, isoleucine and methionine) and pollen. This supplementation don't increase significantly the productivity of the experimentals colonies and don't result in a significant increase in the amount of food consumed.

References

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Regali, A. & P. Rasmont, 1994. Nouvelles méthodes de test destinées à évaluer la valeur nutritionnelle de différentes diètes chez *Bombus terrestris* auct. (Hymenoptera, Apidae); en préparation.

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