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A big new era
in ag trends

The Farmer

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Handing over the reigns

Meet the new generation of the Snows from Woomargama

and AgriFutures Australia is buzzing about their potential to be the basis for a rapidly growing emerging industry.

Stingless bees produce a sweet but tangy honey that is highly prized by consumers and has long been thought to have therapeutic properties.

A report on the project – Optimising Bioactive Content of Australian Stingless Bee Honey – released in October 2021, says the identification of trehalulose in these honeys has given further credence to these beneficial claims.

“This unusual sugar is not found as a major component in any other food, and serves as a distinctive marker of authenticity of stingless bee honeys,” the report states.

The research project also aimed to determine whether trehalulose is produced in the environment, in the bee or in the hive.

SEARCH FOR SUCROSE

The natural distribution of stingless bees in Australia ranges from the sub-tropical coastal regions of New South Wales and Queensland to the tropical coasts of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

The project examined honey produced by different stingless bee species across wide-ranging environments throughout these regions, from suburban backyards to horticultural crops.

Feeding experiments conducted in the study established that the biological precursor of trehalulose is sucrose, a major component in some floral nectars. Stingless bees fed sucrose in experimental hives produced honey rich in trehalulose.

These research outcomes will support the Australian Native Bee Association in its quest for an Australian Food Standard for stingless bee honey.



BEST IN THE BUZZ-NESS

Right: Jeremy Higgins is the business owner of start-up company Sting-Less, specialising in pollination consultancy and hive brokerage of Australian Native Bees.

“Further research is required to expand knowledge of which plant species visited by stingless bees have floral nectar rich in sucrose,” the report says.

“Surprisingly, there is limited available knowledge of the sugar profiles of floral nectar of many Australian native plants, and also key commercial crops.

“Such knowledge would enable beekeepers to selectively site hives in locations close to sources of sucrose-rich nectar and thereby bolster the trehalulose content of stingless bee honey produced in their hives.” ●



Efficient waste and odour solutions.

For customers who need an efficient waste or odour solution, Finn Biogas is an Australian certified engineering company specialising in Biogas. Offering honest advice and straightforward solutions so farmers can get on with growing their business. Finn Biogas is committed to delivering cost-effective solutions and **making waste work.**

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