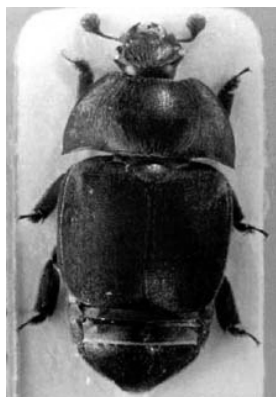


New Pest Alert!

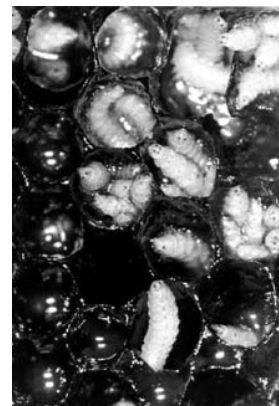
Small Hive Beetle



Please be on the lookout for this pest when inspecting your hives. It has recently been found during hive inspections in incoming hives.



Above: Size compared to honeybee
Left: Adult beetle spread out
Right: Larvae in honey comb
The beetle can multiply to huge numbers within infested colonies where it eats brood, destroys combs and if uncontrolled ultimately destroys them.



This pest is indigenous to Africa and is considered a minor pest there because the native African bees have natural defenses. For European honey bees, the small hive beetle is an extremely serious problem. It was detected in Florida in 1998 and has spread to other parts of the U.S. and is considered well established in the U.S. The adult beetle lays large number of eggs in the hive. The beetle larvae eat brood, pollen, and honey and then crawl out of the hive to pupate, usually in the soil outside the hive. Adults can fly at least 5 miles to infest new colonies.

Detection Methods

Scan combs and boxes. In warm weather, adult beetles will be mostly on the hive floor; in colder weather they hide themselves in the cluster for warmth. Look for clusters of eggs (2/3 the size of bee eggs) in irregular masses usually in crack and crevices in the hive. Look for larvae in the combs or on the bottom board. Although they may at first glance look like wax moth, they can be easily distinguished after close examination

If you detect something suspicious please contact:

**Sacramento Agricultural
Commissioner
4137 Branch Center Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 875-6603**

Whenever possible collect a sample for submission to the above location.