

Asian Parasitic Bee Mites

Tropilaelaps clareae and *T. koenigerum*

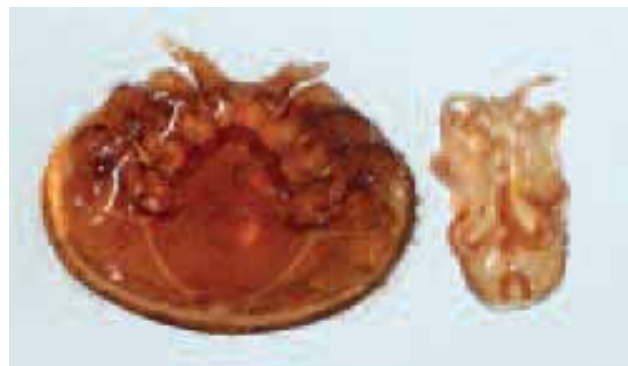
Native of Asia, Asian Bee Mites are a pest of the giant honey bee and European honey bee. These Parasitic Bee Mites affect both developing brood and adult honey bees and are currently **not present in the United States.**



Electron micrograph of *T. clareae*



T. clareae on pupa



Dorsal and ventral view of *Tropilaelaps clareae*

Identifying Features:

T. clareae are light, reddish brown in color and approximately 1 mm long and 0.6 mm wide. Males are slightly smaller than females.

T. koenigerum is oval and light brown. It is approximately 0.7 mm long and 0.5 mm wide, with the adult males being considerably smaller.

Asian Bee Mites are elongated and fast-runners making it easy for observers to spot them moving across the brood combs.

Mites move freely on combs and rely on the brood for feeding. It is believed these mites are unable to survive in a broodless colony. The mites depend on adult bees for transportation from one colony to another and can slowly spread over long distances through the adult bee's natural process of drifting, robbing and swarming.

Damage:

- Abnormal brood development.
- Stunted adults having deformed wings and shrunken abdomens.
- Death of brood and bees.
- Decrease in colony size, possible colony collapse (bees may escape from hives).

If established in the U.S., Asian Bee Mites have the potential to cause major economical and environmental losses related to beekeeping and the disruption of pollination services.

Information and Image Sources

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [Tropilaelaps: parasitic mites of honey bees](http://www.defra.gov.uk/hort/Bees/pdf/trop.pdf). 2005. 3 March 2009
<<http://www.defra.gov.uk/hort/Bees/pdf/trop.pdf>>.