

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Katherine M. Jillson for the degree of Honors Baccalaureate of Science in Environmental Science, Honors Baccalaureate of Arts in International Studies, and Honors Baccalaureate of Arts in French presented on September 1, 2006. Title: The Occurrence of *Acarapis dorsalis*, *Acarapis externus* and *Acarapis woodi* Mites in Honey bee Populations Surrounding Poitiers, France.

Abstract approved: _____
Kate Lajtha

Acarapis mites have been present in the United States since 1984 and are presently considered a threat to honey bee populations in North America. They have been present in Europe since 1921 where infestation rates have now dwindled to a level that is not considered dangerous. Consequently, accurate information on infestation rates is no longer being collected in that region. This paper presents the results of a study that seeks to gather data on current infestation rates in France, one of the earliest locations of epidemic *Acarapis* infestation.

Honey bees from 40 hives near Poitiers, France were examined to determine infestation rates for three types of parasitic mites: *Acarapis woodi*, *A. dorsalis*, and *A. externus*. Dissections of 475 honeybees revealed sporadic, mild infestation of all three mites, suggesting that *Acarapis* mite infestation is still present, however not a threat in France.

Key Words: *Acarapis woodi* – *Acarapis dorsalis* – *Acarapis externus* – Poitiers
– France – Honey bee – Parasitic Mites

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The Occurrence of *Acarapis dorsalis*, *Acarapis externus* and *Acarapis woodi* Mites
in Honey bee Populations Surrounding Poitiers, France

by

Katherine M. Jillson

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I understand that my project will become a part of the permanent collection of Oregon State University, University Honors College. My signature below authorizes release of my project to any reader upon request.

Katherine M. Jillson, Author

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DEDICATION

To the Snelgrove beekeepers who came before me:
may the tradition continue for many more generations.