

Pollinator risk assessment: past, present and future

CHAIRS: Stefan Kimmel, Amy Brooks, Veronique Poulsen, Marco Candolfi



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Probably representing the most important pollinator group, Bees are amongst the most researched and fascinating insect species in the world, both as highly organized social insects and as pollinators with high economic value. Facing a threat and challenging environment, recent decline of colonies worldwide and multiple stressors for the great ecologic group of Apiformes lead to a rising interest in research and consolidation of this interesting and highly valuable class of insects. A broad spectrum of reasons for the decline of bee population during the last decade is in discussion: habitat loss (monocultures and fractured landscapes), radiation exposure, over-breeding and/or negative impact through parasites and plant protection products. One of the results from this has been the inclusion of new data requirements and a new guidance document for the assessment of bees for plant protection products under Regulation (EC) 1007/2009. Data requirements now include an extended oral toxicity study, a chronic larval toxicity study, a hypopharyngeal gland test and a bee brood study for *Apis mellifera*, for example. It also includes assessment of the risks to solitary bees and bumble bees. There is currently limited experience regarding the execution and interpretation of some of these studies. This session is intended to gather actual results, mode of actions and scientific point of views on the great field of bee health, toxicology and ecology. The session shall act as a forum for sharing information with other stakeholders with the objective to improve the knowledge of every decision maker and interested scientist and to open new perspectives on the broad field of bee science. Participations may focus on, but are not limited to: impact of pesticides/biocides, exposure assessment based on experimental data dealing with the new PPP assessment scheme and the various routes of exposure, information on chronic laboratory and field studies under development, solitary species/research on species other than honey bee, impact of agricultural practices and landscape management, recent changes to the risk assessment scheme, higher tier refinement options.

Keywords: Bees, multiple stressors, risk assessment, plant protection products

SESSION TYPE: Platform and Poster