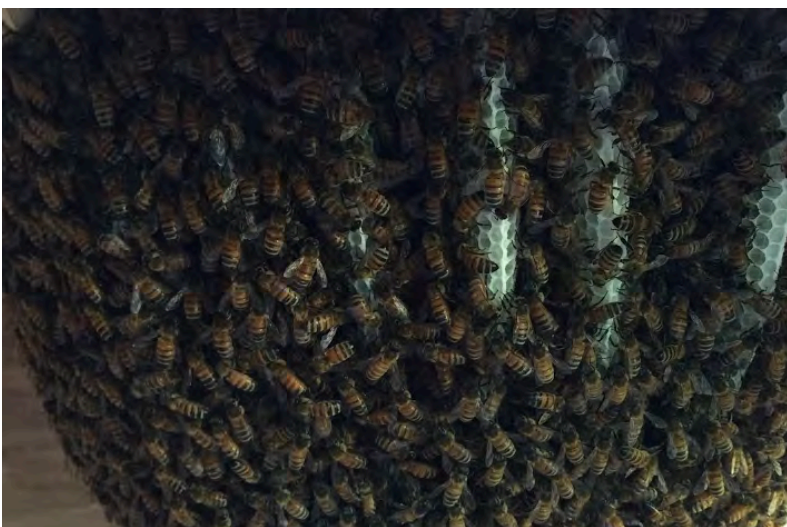


wax moths

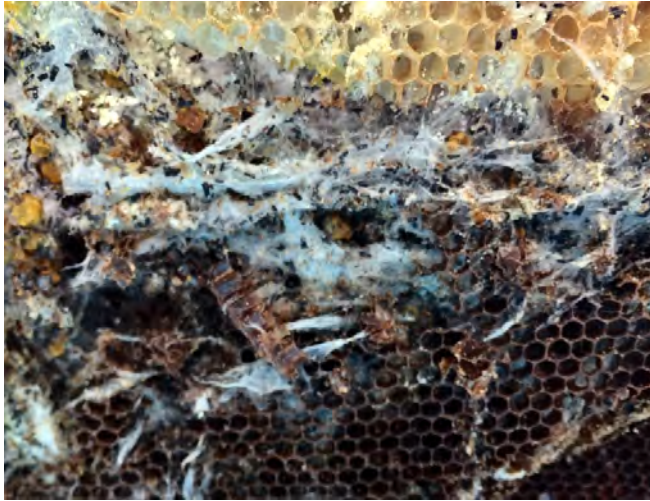
As discussed elsewhere (see [here](#)), the wax comb of a hive is, in a sense, the *tissue* of the honeybee colony, an integral part of the *superorganism*. Beeswax, made from long-chain lipids, is secreted by abdominal wax organs (see [here](#)). Bees cooperate and organize as a team to construct intricately designed sheets of wax comb *out of thin air*.



Within hexagonal cells of the comb, pollen is stored and nectar is processed into honey. The only bee in the colony who has mated and who has developed and functioning ovaries, the queen, lays eggs by the hundreds daily - one each in a wax cell in the brood comb area. Her daughters, the nurse bees, feed their sisters / half-sisters from the time eggs hatch (3 days after they're laid) throughout their 6-day infancy - until each one is sealed in its cell for a 12-day metamorphic adolescence.



Of course, all of this intricate activity, important to the life of the honeybee colony and fascinating for a human observer, is meaningless to certain organisms, which see the wax comb and its contents from a different point of view. For the *wax moth*, the comb is a food source for its own reproductive cycle, a place to lay its eggs and for its larval offspring to feed and grow and mature.



Here are a few reviews:

Bush Bees: *Cause of Wax Moth Infestation:* First, let's talk a bit about the moths, ***Galleria mellonella*** (greater wax moth) and ***Achroia grisella*** (lesser wax moth). Both will invade unguarded comb during the season when they are active. They prefer comb with pollen in it and as a second choice comb with cocoons in it, but they will even live on pure wax with nothing in it. **The reason a colony gets infested is that it is weak. Prevention is not to give them more territory than they can guard, in other words, don't leave a lot of drawn comb on a hive that is small and struggling.** Once they are infested, the solution is to reduce them down to just the space the cluster of bees can cover.

Clemson Cooperative Extension: Beekeepers should maintain strong and healthy colonies by practicing good colony management to help the bees defend against wax moths. Good colony management starts with a good laying queen that can regulate the colony population to maximize the chance of survival. Her genetic makeup is paramount in that her progeny must be able to sustain the colony in the presence of various disease and pests, including wax moths. In general, **a high bee-to-comb ratio is recommended for effective wax moth control.** Swarming, supercedure, starvation, robbing, small hive beetles, or varroa mites can weaken a bee colony and lead to wax moth problems. **Wax moths are opportunists or secondary invaders just waiting for a chance to become established and gain the upper hand.** Once the colony's health balance tilts in favor of wax moths, the colony is normally doomed.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm: *The only sure way to keep this from becoming a problem in your hive is to **keep your bees strong and healthy so they can manage them successfully on their own.** Depending on the extent of the problem you have several options; remove the infected super and add it to a very strong colony that will clean it up, place the comb inside a plastic bag and place in a freezer for 2 days, or some in the deep south, will place the infested combs over a fire ant nest for a day or so to clean up.*

see: [lizard
imagessays.com](https://www.lizardimagessays.com)

