



Photo: Karen Sternberg

A mass onslaught showing 23 of the banded bee pirates attacking a single hive.



Photo: Jenny Cullinan

Banded bee pirates ambush the first two workers exiting the hive, initiating a counter attack by the honeybees.



Photo: Jenny Cullinan

Three banded bee pirates simultaneously launching their attack.



Photo: Karen Sternberg

Four banded bee pirates home in on a captured bee.



Photo: Karen Sternberg

Honeybees overwhelm three banded bee pirates (see arrows).



Photo: Jenny Cullinan

A Banded bee pirate stinging and paralyzing a captured bee.

period of 11½ hours.

Honeybees are then constantly confined to their hives, leaving them only during the periods before sunrise and after sunset to forage. Banded bee pirates are most active when temperatures are between 24 and 40°C¹⁹⁸. There is also much

competition between the wasps vying to capture a bee and they continually dive at each other. This behaviour led to the devising of a trap for the wasps which consists of a tray or enamel dish filled with water and placed in the front of the hive, preferably with a mirror on its floor, and the

surface-tension of the water broken with a dollop of liquid soap. The bee-wasp dives at its own reflection and drowns in the water.

This however, cannot be implemented commercially by placing a water-filled dish in front of every hive in temperatures that would

cause total evaporation of the water within hours. Another method is to place sticky 'ant-barrier' on a shiny board in front of the hive on which alighting bee pirates become trapped²⁰⁰.

Van Mieghem²⁰¹ found that honey production increased when providing water in the months