

Honey harvested from brood comb is dirty – a refutation.

1. Bees clean the cells out scrupulously after a bee has hatched. (The bees also clean up old super comb in frame hives that has overwintered and in the meantime attracted a film of mildew. Is the honey from supers any the purer?)
2. The comb in a Warré is in a continuous process of renewal and has gone through only a season or two's worth of brood cycles before backfilling occurs. Combs in the supers of framed hives are used over and over again for 30 years or more. The accumulation in them and subsequent leaching out into the honey of pesticides and other artificial toxics is unknown.
3. The backfilled brood cells are incubated in the warmth in contact with honey for weeks if not months before the honey is harvested, giving plenty time for any extractables there may be to diffuse into the honey -- and colour it if any colouration occurs. Any honey extracted from brood comb in frames will have at least this contact time with alleged faeces.
4. Vertical top-bar hives -- managed and harvested in the same way as Warré hives -- have been in use for at least 500 years in Japan.
5. Vertical top-bar hives -- managed and harvested in the same way as Warré hives -- have been in use in continental Europe for at least 200 years, Guillaume Louis Formanoir de Palteau (1712-?), book published in 1756, <http://www.biobees.com/warre/palteau.htm>). I have not heard of any complaints about the honey.
6. Honey has been harvested from brood comb by honey hunters from wild colonies and by beekeepers from skeps etc for millennia. It was still recognised and bought as 'honey' and not as 'impure honey'. (It may be that the flavour and bouquet is enhanced by being from brood comb.)
7. Several foods, e.g. whitebait, are eaten complete with the organism's faeces. These are usually avoided by anyone with coprophobia.
8. Honey is bee spittle.
9. Honeydew is bee spittle from aphid shit.
10. There may be antibiotic and other microbe inhibitory substances in the walls of brood comb which could enhance the qualities of the honey.
11. What is wine, kefir and yoghurt but the refuse of dead organisms? People eat food that is grown in the ground. What is in the ground? Refuse of insects and organisms. People eat food, e.g. lettuce, that is grown on the ground. No amount of ordinary washing will rid it of its bacterial population.
12. In frame hives, nectar is 'parked' in brood comb pending its transfer to supers.

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