

# WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2023

## Activities in 2023

This report has been submitted : 11 juin 2024 13:46

### Laboratory Information

<b>Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:</b>	Varroosis of honey bees (infestation of honey bees with Varroa spp.)
<b>Address of laboratory:</b>	66 Ward Street, Wallaceville, Upper Hutt 5018, NEW ZEALAND
<b>Tel.:</b>	+6448945600
<b>E-mail address:</b>	richard.hall@mpi.govt.nz
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.mpi.govt.nz/science/laboratories/national-animal-health-laboratory/">https://www.mpi.govt.nz/science/laboratories/national-animal-health-laboratory/</a>
<b>Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):</b>	Dr Joseph O'Keefe, Animal Health Laboratory Manager
<b>Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:</b>	Dr Richard Hall, Principal Scientist
<b>Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:</b>	Governmental

### TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.?  
(Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

No

### TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOA?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOA Members?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

Not applicable

### TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHS Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

## TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHS Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHS Member?

Yes

NAME OF THE WOAHS MEMBER COUNTRY RECEIVING A TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY	PURPOSE	HOW THE ADVICE WAS PROVIDED
NEW CALEDONIA	Advice in regard to longitudinal study of honey bee health	Email; phone calls
CHINESE TAIPEI	Advice in regard to varroa detection methods	Email; online meeting

## TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHS Members other than the own?

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	PURPOSE OF THE STUDY	PARTNERS (INSTITUTIONS)	WOAHS MEMBER COUNTRIES INVOLVED OTHER THAN YOUR COUNTRY
eDNA detection of Varroa destructor in honey bee colonies	6 months	To trial an eDNA method for the detection of Varroa destructor in honey bee colonies, for possible use in early detection activities	CSIRO, University of Canberra, Agriculture Victoria, James Cook University	AUSTRALIA

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs\* relevant for WOAHS?

No

## TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

No

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

1

Pragert H, Hall R. (2023) Honey bee pest and disease survey of Rēkohu/Wharekauri/ Chatham Island, Rakiura/Stewart Island and Aotea/Great Barrier Island. *Surveillance* 50(2):4-6. <https://www.sciquest.org.nz/browse/publications/article/172634>

b) International conferences:

0

c) National conferences:

1

Papers at the 4th New Zealand Honeybee Research Symposium, June 28th 2023, Rotorua, New Zealand:

Roberts J, Bravo F, Encinas-Viso F, Hall R, Lindsay F, Martoni F, Snape N, Trujillo-Gonzalez A. (2023) Early detection of varroa through environmental DNA hive surveillance. Pragert H, Hall. (2023) The MPI Honey Bee Collection: now welcoming applications from researchers.

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

3

1. Produced Varroa Control Checklist for beekeepers. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/56596-Varroa-Control-Check-List>

2. Compiled 'Bee Biosecurity: the essentials', a fact sheet series, including section on varroa. Source material: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/how-to-find-report-and-prevent-pests-and-diseases/bee-biosecurity/bee-pests-and-diseases/>

3. Hall R, Pragert H (2023) Re-imagining varroa monitoring: a practical approach. New Zealand Beekeeper Oct/Nov issue. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/59209-Re-imagining-varroa-monitoring-A-practical-approach>

## TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAHA Members?

Yes

a) Technical visit : 4

b) Seminars : 0

c) Hands-on training courses: 0

d) Internships (>1 month) 0

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
A	FIJI	3
A	AUSTRALIA	2
A	AUSTRALIA	5
A	CANADA	1

## TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories	Schedule to CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION: for conformance to ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration	Certificate of Accreditation AHL Current.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Parasitology 1.02 Diagnostic Tests, Veterinary (c) Parasitology	International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) <a href="https://www.ianz.govt.nz/">https://www.ianz.govt.nz/</a>

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

Our laboratory has permission under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (New Zealand) to communicate, and propagate unwanted organisms. Varroa spp. are officially listed as unwanted organisms in New Zealand, and our processes and procedures for handling varroa are in adherence with the s52/53 permission. Our laboratory operates under, and is audited to the Australia/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2243.3:2002 Safety in Laboratories. Part 3: Microbiological Aspects and Containment Facilities.

## TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHA?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHA?

No

## TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Do you network (collaborate or share information) with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAHP REF. LABS
Varroosis (infestation of honey bees with Varroa spp.)	Participant; discussion with experts from the other WOAHP Reference Laboratories for Varroosis (infestation of honey bees with Varroa spp.) on 18 December 2023	3	WOAHP Reference Laboratories for Varroosis at: ANSES (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) ALSO, National Reference Laboratory for Bee Diseases, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Germany.

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

No

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

## TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOAHP Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen?

No

## TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAHP?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

*Our WOAHP Reference Laboratory designation was made in June 2023.*