

Bee Lice or Braulids

Causative Agent: *Braula coeca* (Diptera, Braulidae)

Range: Primarily Eastern US

Life cycle:

- Braulids are wingless flies that are about the same size as Varroa mites.
- Hang off of the front of the bee's head and stimulates the bee to stick its tongue out. The braulid then feeds on whatever is on the tongue.
- Female braulids are believed to lay their eggs on cappings of the honey, not brood.
- Larvae hatch and burrow through the comb causing defects, luckily the honey is not damaged.

Management:

- Largely considered a nuisance, management actions are rarely needed.

Other Useful Sites:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN328>

References used:

Root, A. I. (1990) The ABC & XYZ of bee culture 40th ed. A.I Root Co. Medina, OH.