

Queries and Replies

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

Black Ants.

QUERY No. 279.—I am greatly troubled with small black ants, in my beeyard, dwelling house, and cellar, and even in the garret. My yard is a sandy soil. Please give me a remedy.—W. J. B.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—No experience.

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Try Prof. Cook's remedy.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, ONT.—Find the nest and destroy them.

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, O.—Carbolic acid solution placed in their run-ways will fix them.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—That's me exactly. I listen for the remedy—one that is not more troublesome than the ants.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Have never been troubled with ants, and will let some one of experience answer your question.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTIE, ONT.—I would like an answer to this query myself, although not annoyed by this pest as some others are.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Destroy them in their nests with tobacco water, or coal oil. If that don't do stock your rooms with toads.

J. E. POND NORTH ATTLEBORO', MASS.—Find out their nests and destroy them. This is the only remedy I can give. Setting the legs of hives in cups of water, will prevent them from troubling the bees. Insect powder thoroughly sprinkled through the house may drive them away. They are a nuisance and hard to get rid of.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—Never had much trouble with ants, but my neighbor, Mr. C. H. Matthews, once got rid of a colony of ants that had pre-empted and partly emptied the hollow wall of a saw dust hive, by turning the bee smoker on them. They soon came hustling out carrying their valuables with them, and left the place in disgust.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—If you can find the hills, you can kill the ants with bisulphide of carbon as I recommended in bulletin 58, otherwise trap them in liquid syrup, or poison with Paris green mixed with honey of syrup and place so as no bees but only ants can get at it, as in a box covered with wire gauze.

A. PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—There are a great many remedies recommended—kerosene, salt, tansy, etc., etc. They are numerous around my yard and honey house and are annoying, but I cannot say they do much damage. At any rate I never take the trouble to fight them as I do the potato bugs and some others of Dame Nature's blunders.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—Last season the ants troubled my honey house very much, and became a great nuisance at times. I scattered common salt all around the floor next to the walls, and I have not been annoyed by them since. You can keep them at a distance by the use of wet salt, but in my experience they are more annoying than harmful in the beeyard and about the hives. Ants can be successfully exterminated by poisoning them. I use a small box with wire cloth cover so that nothing else can get at the poison. Keep the poisoned "bait" in the box, and set the box in their haunts. Bits of pork and pieces of honey comb make good "bait."

THE EDITOR.—We are not troubled with them here at Beeton. As a rule, we do not advise their destruction, but there are circumstances when it would be a considerable nuisance to put up with them. So great a friend does Sir John Lubbock consider the ant, that in his book, *Ants, Bees and Wasps*, he does not even give a method of destruction. The method to which Prof. Cook refers we presume is the following:

"By the use of a crowbar make a hole in the middle of the ant hill, down to the bottom, which is easily found by the more open or less compact earth. Then turn into this hole a gill of the bisulphide of carbon, and fill and crowd down with earth. As the liquid is very volatile, and cannot pass out of the now compactly filled hole, it quickly evaporates and kills the ants. If clay be near, always use this to crowd into the hole, as it is more impervious than is sand, though by firmly pressing with the foot the sand can be made to hold the liquid. Kerosene may be used instead of the carbon, but it is far less effective. So, too, of carbolic acid. By means of syrup, so covered with gauze thy bees are excluded, the ants can be trapped in great numbers and destroyed. I have often done this, and by adding Paris green have poisoned the ants."