Diseases and pests of stingless bees

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As meliponiculture continues to advance, the emergence of diseases, parasites, and pests poses a growing concern. Among these threats, phorids, tiny flies that lay their eggs in pollen pots, pose a particularly grave danger as they can destroy an entire colony quickly. However, our understanding of the various bacteria, fungi, viruses, mites, insects, and other macroorganisms that can harm stingless bee colonies is expanding. New records of these threats have been reported, and investigations are underway to uncover the causes of certain mysterious diseases. The transmission of these diseases can occur not only among managed bees but also from managed bees to their wild counterparts. This issue is of greatest importance as it not only impacts the production sector but also poses a threat to natural populations, contributing to the decline of pollinators. Therefore, it is crucial for beekeepers to promptly report any occurrences of problems or colony mortality to agricultural defense agencies. By doing so, they can contribute to the monitoring and containment of pests and diseases, as well as aid in the investigation of potential contamination by chemical agents. Additionally, the adoption of proper handling and transportation practices is essential in preventing the escalation of these issues.