

Complete Beekeeping Short Course

Part 13: Managing Wax Moths



greater wax moth

- *Galleria mellonella*



lesser wax moth

- *Achroia grisella*



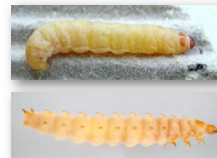
greater wax moth

- *Galleria mellonella*
 - "wax worms"
 - opportunistic pests
 - found in weak colonies and stored combs
 - can rapidly consume/destroy drawn combs



greater wax moth

- don't confuse with SHB larvae
 - both found in weak colonies

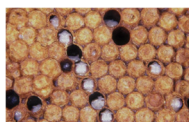
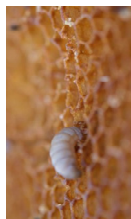


GWM
~ 1"
SHB
~ ½"



greater wax moth

- tunnels through combs
- consumes pollen, cocoons & beeswax
- spin webbing as they move
- leaves frass
- chews up wood



greater wax moth

- what to do?
 - mild infestation
 - stack on strong hive
 - severe infestation
 - scrape it all clean

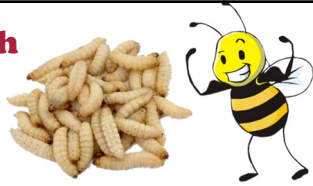


freeze for
at least
72+ hours



greater wax moth

- what to do?
 - strong colonies
 - don't over-super
 - stay queen-right



greater wax moth

- what to do?
 - store combs in safe place
 - keep frozen
 - lots of light & air circulation
 - *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt)
 - fumigate
 - moth crystals
 - para-dichlorobenzene (PDB)
 - not naphthalene (not moth balls)
 - 80% (glacial) acetic acid

