

Apis Regina, Soul Of The Queen Bee

By Mary Piper



Queen Bee, *Apis Regina*

As a beekeeper for nearly 30 years, Mary Piper questioned Gutman's supposition that the queen is nothing but 'a huge ovary machine', and challenged the statement in Murphy's *Materia Medica* that 'the queen is the most jealous thing in nature'. She decided to conduct a proving to find out.

In 2001, for my fourth-year project as a student at Purton House School of Homeopathy, I undertook to conduct a proving of *Apis Regina*. I shared the role of coordinator with a fellow student who was unable to complete the process. There were seven provers, three women and four men, two of whom were college students; there were seven supervisors one of whom was a college student, another a college tutor. The essential ideas concerning the process of proving found in *The Organon*, chapter IV (Aphorisms 105 - 145) and *The Guidelines for Conducting Provings* (Aphorism 121 - 142) in particular were studied. The other invaluable guide was Jeremy Sherr's book *The Dynamics and Methodology of Homeopathic Provings*. I chose this work for the learning experience and I also wanted to see if a remedy made from a queen bee would vary significantly from *Apis Mellifica* and have a unique healing potential. Those involved in a proving are given the opportunity to learn not only in themselves but also in their understanding of homeopathy. As Jeremy Sherr explains: 'Conducting a proving... is one of the best ways of learning the philosophy structure of homeopathy, providing great insight into the power of nature through medicine and the various responses to our defence mechanism. Thus provings should be an essential part of every homeopathic programme... Taking part in a proving opens a gateway to a more direct experiential side of homeopathy.'

Background

As a beekeeper for nearly 30 years, I have always been fascinated by bees. During this time *Apis Mellifica* was an important remedy in my first-aid box, mainly used to alleviate the extreme allergic reaction of my youngest son to wasp and bee stings. It had also cured me of severe right-sided ovarian pain, which developed after a kick by a horse in the pelvic region. My knowledge of bees made me challenge Gutman's supposition, 'the queen propagates exclusively... being nothing but a huge ovary machine', and I disagreed with the statement in Murphy's *materia medica*, that 'the queen is the most jealous thing in nature'. As mother to the worker bees, the queen does share similarities, but there are striking differences. Only by conducting a proving will we discover the remedy's potential, as Hahnemann wrote: 'We have only to rely on the morbid phenomena that the medicines produce in the healthy body as the sole possible revelation of their in-dwelling curative power. For the pure, peculiar powers of medicines available for the cure of disease are to be learned neither by any ingenious *a priori* speculations, nor by the smell, taste or appearance of the drugs, nor by their chemical analysis.'

Finding A Suitable Queen Bee

Not having a spare queen, and it being late August, it was suggested that a beekeeper uniting two small colonies might be found. Initially it was thought this would be an easy task until I remembered the difficulty with purity because of *varroa*, a bee louse that has threatened British bees during the past five years. As most beekeepers spray with chemicals containing organo-phosphates, the queen would be far from pure. Hahnemann said in Aphorism 122: 'The substance used in provings should be perfectly well known and their purity, genuineness and full vigour should be thoroughly assured. This is because the certainty of the entire medical art and the welfare of all future human generations depends on these experiments.'

Helios has a remedy made from *varroa* and produced a list of those who had ordered it. However, when approached, they no longer kept bees. The search brought about contact with many old friends. A local beekeeper producing organic honey treated his bees using synthetic sprays with Soil Association approval; they were made from African marigold, pyrethrum or thyme, but did not have a spare queen. Another, who reared queens commercially and used these sprays, had a spare queen but at the last moment I discovered she was marked with Tipp-Ex. Just as despondency was setting in, a lady who was uniting two colonies, phoned to offer a queen, her colony neither having been sprayed nor Tipp-Exed! She was a young queen native to this country, and a good layer, producing calm, good-tempered bees. During her own larva stage, the bees were foraging on field beans, raspberry and a little rape. During her lifetime they foraged on lime, clover, borage, blackberry, sweet chestnut, ragwort, privet, willow herb, and wild scabious.

Collecting The Queen Bee

8th September 2001: Both coordinators collected the queen from the hive. Usually this had been an easy task for the beekeeper, but she proved good at hiding and it took forty minutes, though the bees remained relatively calm. We were just about to give up when she was found. We placed her straight into a test tube already filled with 90% ethyl alcohol; a sad moment. On the journey home the lift bridge over the canal had gone out of control, it was raising and lowering itself continually, a funny but disturbing sight; had to find another way home.

9th September 2001: Felt misgivings about the whole project; would she really produce a remedy much different to *Apis Mellifica*? That night received a

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message in a dream: 'She will give courage to those who have been abused and she will strengthen the pelvic organs.'

10th September 2001: Dreamt of a city beside water, some terrible disaster, an excavation, like a bomb site.

11th September 2001: Air attack in New York on Twin Towers.

24th September 2001: Both coordinators prepared the remedy at Helios. Staff discovered a proving of *Apis Regina* already existed, this had not been realised before; we decided to continue anyway.

The Remedy

The first day of the proving, day 0, was 29 November 2001. On the second day of the proving, a front-page headline in *The Guardian* read: 'Battle For The Soul'.

When the proving was over, a meeting was arranged to return journals, and for everyone involved to meet and speak if they wanted about their experience. Phrases noted at the meeting were: 'decisive', 'busy', 'mentally and physically focused - had my antennae up', 'electric', 'sociable', 'different person', 'the family all wanted to be around me (prover)', 'disappointed', 'moody', 'irritable', 'yellow-sad', 'prickly', 'violence', 'communication breakdown', 'felt strong need for communication'.

Suggestions as to what the remedy may have been: 'something druggy', 'cocaine', 'something like coffee'.

Comments made after hearing the remedy was made from a queen bee, *Apis Regina*: 'I bought my mother royal jelly products for Christmas; first time ever!' 'I really desired honey', 'thought it was something to do with yellow', 'children kept singing a song by Wings!'

Summary Of The Remedy

The remedy was fast to act, with some provers noting new symptoms and a change in their energy on day 0. There was an outstanding response on the mental and emotional level with severe mood swings. Symptoms were powerful, intense with many polarities:

energy increase, strength	lack of energy, weakness
exhilaration	depressed
speedy	slowness
industrious	lethargy
positive	stupefaction
communicative	communication breakdown
alert	confused, memory loss, mistakes
confident	lack of confidence
courageous	timidity, fearful, anxious
relaxed, calm, tranquil	prickly, irritable, angry

Appetite: There was loss of appetite, with weight loss but also appetite increased with beneficial weight gain.

Dreams: These were described as vivid, intense, complicated, exciting or exhausting. They included fear of attack from aliens, from the air, from wild animals (bears) and feelings of being pursued. There was courage and action: confrontations, rescuing children from kidnappers, putting up a fight. Dreams of cruelty, battles, enemies, fights and guns. Also amorous, affectionate dreams involving people unknown, old friends, parties, market places. Issues around relationships, amorous, emotional, watery dreams.

Physical Affinities: There was an affinity with the pelvic organs, female genitalia, bladder and bowels; also with bones and joints; with the gastrointestinal tract, in particular the mouth and stomach. There was evidence of heightened sensitivity in the sensory organs, similar to allergic reactions.

Generalities: Symptoms were violent, pain was intense, sharp, stabbing, cutting. Burning sensation was a dominant feature, and there had been a burning accident; there was a general feeling of increase in heat. Symptoms were predominantly left sided.

Modalities: Included better for heat, but also worse for heat; an aggravation 3-4 pm and 5-9 pm.

Polarities:

desires sweet things, honey	desires bitter, sour food & drink
bitter taste	bitterness was >for something hot; sore mouth (as if burnt) sweet things
vision clear	vision foggy
increase in heat	single parts cold
thirsty	thirstless
sleep disturbed	sleep blissful

Exhilaration, increase in energy

In some provers a change in their energy was noted on day 0. In the provers' language, there was a sensation 'As if drugged', 'I felt a change... like I had the shakes... like I was looking at things a bit quicker... like I was speeding', 'It was as if I'd had a dose of caffeine', 'Feeling a little edgy...shaky', 'A rush of energy', 'A rush of thoughts', 'Ideas abundant'.

Heightened Sensitivity

'I've had my antennae up', 'I feel ultra sensitive', 'Eyes were cleaner and clearer... reflected light seemed better'.

Heightened Sensitivity Alternating With Stupor

Loss of energy, a stupor, depression. For some it was the primary state. There was the sensation of 'as if drugged - with stupor', 'head spinning... like mildly drunk, pleasantly... like one step removed from what was going on... like running in water', 'As if seeing the world through a veil, slightly distant... used the word barrier to describe this sensation', 'I felt I'd really lost it... was so tired... I just didn't think, not like me to be so careless, it was as if I was in a dream', 'being aware of focusing a challenge... a time-lag between seeing something and focusing', 'I'm exhausted... woke feeling tired and lethargic, no energy', 'Drowsy... wrung out... as if nothing left to give.'

Depression, Heaviness, Drowsiness, Wooden Sensation

There were deep feelings of depression: 'felt really low, really depressed... a black scary mood', 'mood so black', 'feeling blue', 'despairing will I live till spring... see daylight again?'

Heaviness was reflected in the physical symptoms with heaviness in the head and eyes, 'Eyeballs heavier than usual... aware of weight of eyeballs.' There was a sensation of dullness, heaviness, numbness, 'felt wooden... like a wooden doll'.

There was sleepiness and drowsiness. Sleep was heavy, deep. 'Feel sleepy, as if not woken up properly', 'Sensation of sleep creeping up on me.' Symptoms were felt on waking; there was confusion, numbness, weakness, and weariness, drowsy, difficulty in waking.

Industrious, Need For Organisation

'Lots of energy felt very organised... ', 'Sorting things out... keeping things on the move.' It was noted other family members were also affected in this way. 'Doing things... rubbing off on the family.' 'Mentally my mind is very alert... doing lots of planning and organising in my head', 'Very busy, industrious day', 'Busy... not concentrating on how I feel', 'Worked all day intensely... very hectic day'.

Concentration Difficult

This alternated with active concentration. One prover felt this intensely: 'struggling with straight forward piece of mental arithmetic... finding quite simple tasks more challenging... easily distracted... phone calls and paperwork taking longer... probably shouldn't be driving, not really concentrating.' 'Memory bad... struggle to write lists.' 'Having problems remembering things... forget people's names and appointments.' Memory loss was clearly indicated by two provers forgetting about the proving and taking an acute remedy. This was in response to receiving bad news and intense abdominal pain. During extraction of symptoms it was noted that all provers made mistakes with dates in their journal. Confusion 'Sense of time a little confused', 'Don't feel very in control', 'feeling quite strange... peculiar', 'my mind has been a bit fuzzy... don't feel very together.'

Increase In Confidence Alternating With Loss Of Confidence

With the increase in energy came a strong feeling of wellbeing, 'feel energised and positive,' and an increase in confidence was noted by many, 'much more confident', 'better able to cope... more confident.' This alternated with 'confidence swings up and down noticeably from day to day'. Anxiety was felt, 'butterflies and churning feeling in stomach, feels like I've got jellyfish in stomach'. All those involved frequently experienced a loss of confidence.

Communication

A need for communication was felt among supervisors and provers; there was improvement, though with some it was difficult, and broke down. There was an awareness of 'trying to communicate better', 'more confident with conversing with people', 'better communication'.

Courageous

Better energy and more confidence led to more courage, especially with improving relationships. Some chose to confront those they had previously been unable to, 'more decisive, and able for confrontation'. Courage was reflected in dreams with confrontations, 'confronted wife's brother'. Dreams of rescuing people from kidnappers, putting up a good fight.

Prickly, Irritable, Anger Alternating With Tranquillity

Prickling internally and externally. 'I feel prickly all over, my mood is prickly.' 'Eczema makes me feel prickly... makes me feel irritable.' 'Intolerant of everyone... stirring up my liver.' 'I am very short tempered at the moment.' There were intense feelings of anger: 'Weeping with anger', 'had a big argument... lost it'. 'Anger more pronounced... feeling everything in an extreme way.'

Burning

Anger was reflected in the physical-generals with many burning sensations: 'left ear hot and red', 'mouth feels sore, as if burnt with a hot drink', 'burnt sensation on top of tongue, circular in shape', 'Burning sensation all through tummy from throat right down to core of my body', 'sensation on chest of prickliness under heart', 'eczema feels very prickly'.

Calmness

Irritability alternated with calmness: 'very relaxed', 'not fiddling with nails, usually pick at them when nervous, but not today', 'hectic day not stressed by it as usually would be', 'relaxed, not reacting to money issues, coping better', 'relaxed... good energy... cheerful'. Family members of a prover commented how he was 'more reasonable and accommodating... we wanted to be around him'.

Apis-r & Apis-m

From studying the proving it is evident that *Apis Regina* shares similar symptoms to *Apis Mellifica*. However, there are significant differences, mainly on the mental and emotional level, these in particular being the strong opposing symptoms. Appropriate rubrics for *Apis Regina* in which *Apis Mellifica* does not appear include: Exhilaration; Intoxicated, sensation as if; Confidence, want of; Communicative; High-spirited; Positiveness; Elated; Spaced-out feeling. Some remedies appearing in these rubrics include *Cannabis Indica*, *Coffea*, *Opium*, *Lachesis*, *Hydrogen*, *Neon*, *Lunar* and *Granite*.



The queen is the only fertile female, mother of every bee.

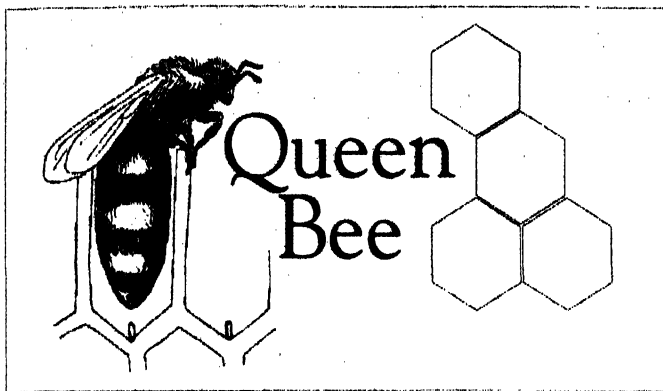
Queen bee surrounded by workers.
Illustration by Susan Sluglett

During the proving a cyclical pattern emerged. At the beginning of each stage the movement was slow, beset with difficulties that kept increasing to the point of despondency; it often felt like a battle. Suddenly help would appear and the energy was moving again. It was as if the queen bee was a hard taskmaster, demanding honesty and integrity, just like Hahnemann's demands on a homeopath who must be 'healthy, unprejudiced, conscientious and fine-feeling'. There is no evidence to support the idea that the queen bee is 'the most jealous thing in nature', nor is she 'nothing but a huge ovary machine'. While preparing this article, I read in the *Guardian* an obituary of Dame Miriam Rothschild, a naturalist and entomologist described as the Queen Bee of research, being expert in her field with highly tuned sensitivity. Qualities attributed to her support our ancestors' opinion of the queen bee, they included: 'a unique philosophical aura of great personality and power... enthusiastic, vigorous, well informed... truly the greatest of Queen Bees... she spoke the language of the soul'.

As the completion of the collation of symptoms and the repertorisation were done by one person, I offered the work only as a final college project as opposed to an official proving. However Helios now has *Apis Regina* (Mary Piper) in a 6C to a 10M potency and sent it out not only to several homeopaths in this country but also to Holland, Germany and Italy. Investigation into the clinical use of *Apis Regina* is being undertaken by Chris Fixsen for his fourth-year project and any contributions may be sent to chris@fixsen.co.uk and zmpiper@nascr.net. The remedy has been used to treat patients with arthritic symptoms, for back pain, hayfever, infertility and hormonal disturbances. Helios also has *Apis Regina* made by Anne Walker Lic. ISH PCH who conducted a proving in Ireland in 1998; there were six provers, four female and two males. She uses the remedy frequently and may be contacted at awalk@oceanfree.net

As with all provings, there has been a dependence on many helpers all giving freely and generously their support, knowledge and energy: in particular, the seven provers who temporarily sacrificed their good health to suffer some unpleasant symptoms for the future good of the whole.

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Intoxicated-sensation as if; Confidence want of;
Communicative;
High spirited;
Positiveness; Elated;
Spaced out feeling.



Only the queen larva and pupa is fed royal jelly.

All larvae are fed with a glandular secretion from the nurse bees (young bees), a concentrated food rich in nitrogen, protein and pollen, known as 'bee milk' or 'brood food'. Larva in a queen cell is fed with a different quality of milk, known as royal jelly. It is greatly enriched and contains much more sugar, which apparently triggers hormonal differences in the larva. A greater quantity of milk is added until the larva floats so it can continually eat its fill until the cell is hermetically sealed with wax. If a larva is taken from a worker bee cell and placed in a queen cell it is reared as a queen.

The queen's appearance is different.

Due to her reproductive role, she differs in size and shape to the worker bees, being half as large again due to her large abdomen, which is more pointed at the rear. She has strong, less hairy legs so she stands higher than the other bees; she has smaller wings and is often different, lighter in colour.

The queen is the only fertile female, mother of every bee.

Worker bees are said to be neuter, though in fact they do have reproductive organs, but these are undeveloped. The queen is the only fertile bee and sustains the life of the colony as the only provider of eggs. She is specially designed for this purpose with two enormous ovaries and a spermatheca, to store sufficient sperm to fertilise the millions of eggs she will lay during her life span. This high activity is alternated with a period of rest when she ceases to lay, in September. It is said she recommences on 21st December.

The queen bee has the ability to determine the sex of the eggs.

It is still not exactly understood how she does this. The eggs are parthenogenetic i.e. they will develop whether fertilised or not. She can either lay into a large hexagonal cell without allowing any sperm to escape from her spermatheca, which will produce a drone (male bee, no male parent, only one set of chromosomes), or if the cell is a smaller hexagonal (worker bee cell) or larger but thimble-shaped (queen cell) she allows the sperm to enter her vagina and thus fertilises the egg. Research suggests that she can differentiate by measuring the diameter of the cell with her front legs. There is a mutual dependence between the queen and worker bees; she relies on them to build the cell and to feed and take care of the larvae and young bees, and they rely on her to produce the eggs.

The queen secretes a pheromone

Discoveries made this century have revealed that she secretes a pheromone produced in her mandibular glands. There is still much to be learned about this mysterious substance and how it works. It is thought that as the bees attend the queen, the pheromone is licked off and passed around the hive as food is transferred between the bees. It is composed of at least two substances: 9 Oxydecanoic acid and 9 Hydroxydecanoic acid. The effects include attraction and inhibition. The Oxydecanoic acid attracts the drone when the unmated queen is

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on the wing. The pheromone inhibits the worker bees from making queen cells and also inhibits them from developing their ovaries, and therefore from laying and producing eggs. As she ages, her production of pheromone reduces and the bees will set about constructing queen cells, giving evidence that the pheromone affects the behaviour of the colony. If overcrowding occurs, the effect of the substance is weakened and a colony will produce another queen.

The queen acts as the unifying force of the colony.

A harmonious colony is maintained by her presence. This is demonstrated by the change in the behaviour and mood of the bees when she is removed from the hive; they soon emit a high-pitched buzzing, become anxious, bad-tempered and start to sting any intruder. This suggests she acts in a dynamic way. The bees will make a queen cell to replace the queen within 24 hours of losing her.

There is only ever one queen in a colony.

She acts in a benevolent way not malevolent. If the colony rears a new queen, the old queen leaves the hive just before the young queen emerges. With a band of 5,000 to 10,000 workers, carrying plenty of honey stores, the old queen will leave for another site to start building a new colony. This is known as a swarm and is an efficient way of ensuring the survival of the species. Although she behaves in a royal manner by allowing herself to be attended to, always surrounded by a circle of 12 attendants who feed and clean her, in return she dedicates her time to laying eggs. The worker bee acts in obedience to her mysterious power, it works itself to death in the service of the colony and willingly sacrifices its life in defence of the queen.

The queen has a different sting.

The queen is equipped with a long-curved sting; she does not die after using it and so can sting more than once. Its main use is when she hatches: she will destroy any other queen bee pupae or other newly emerging queens. A beekeeper can handle her with little danger of being stung; her sting is said to be less severe than a worker bee's sting. The worker bee's sting has a barb, which it is unable to remove after stinging; it twists itself free and flies off to die, usually within half an hour. The poison sac is attached to this barb and its muscles continue working, burying the barb deeper and pumping the poison into the wound for up to 20 minutes. It feels like an injection; the poison is an acid and alkaline substance supplied by separate glands, neither substance alone would produce effective symptoms. Worker bees will soon become defensive and aggressive once they feel the colony is threatened their sting being their only means of defence.

The queen lives in the dark.

After her maiden flight, if mating has been successful, she never mates again and spends the rest of her life inside the hive apart from when swarming. The queen is not so adept at flying, as her wings are smaller. In contrast to the queen, the worker bees are constantly out foraging during the flowering season.