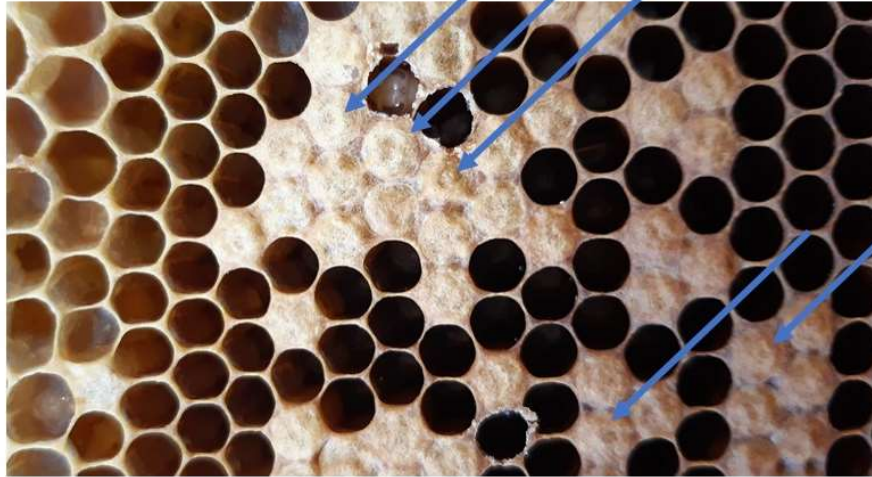


Of 9 colonies sampled in Tony Herbert's apiary, the three with the highest pin-prick clearance rate (92%, 86% and 80% respectively), have the lowest natural mite fall rates as measured on floor inserts below open meh floors.

We are now finding many cells in these selected colonies that have pupal cappings that have been opened and then re-sealed. This is indicative of hygienic behaviour and will form a basis for future selection. (see images below)



Surface view of 18-day old pupae. Arrows indicate areas of the cappings that have been removed and re-sealed



The images above show the underside of pupal cappings of 18 day old pupae. The one on the left has been un-capped and re-sealed, the one on the right shows an intact silk pupal skin and has not therefore been uncapped and re-sealed.