

The efficacy of breadfruit leaves, citrus leaves and Apistan Strip for the control of Varroa mites in Jamaica

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[Abstract]

Varroa mite was detected in Jamaica on February 18, 1999 and has spread to all hives within two years. The efficacy of dried leaves from two plants (Breadfruit – *Artocarpus* sp and Citrus – *Citrus paradise*) and a commercial pesticide (Apistan® - 10% Taufluvalinat), was tested for the control of Varroa mite. Ten standard Langstroth beehives were randomly treated with Apistan®, breadfruit and citrus leaves, separately, and a mixture of citrus leaves, (using six puffs per week for eight consecutive weeks) singly or in combination was not effective in reducing the Varroa mite population. Smokes impacted negatively on the hive performance as honey production was decreased. On the other hand, Apistan® treatments significantly reduced beehive mite population over time with little impact on hive output.