

INFLUENCE OF UPPER BEE-ENTRANCE ON WINTERING OF BEES IN A SIXTEEN-FRAME HIVE

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Summary. During 1995/96, 1996/97 and 1997/98 wintering of hybrid bees (*Apis mellifica L.*) in sixteen-frame hives was investigated in the private A. Amšiejus apiary of 100 colonies (Ringaudai, Kaunas District). Experiments were carried out in two variants: 10 hives with lower bee-entrances were left for control, and 10 hives with upper bee-entrances were opened during winter season. The variants of the investigation were grouped according the racial morphs of bees. The obtained data on the wintering indicate that during wintering bees from the hives with upper bee-entrances saved up to 1,91 kg of food. A very strong correlation ($r = 0,99$) was found between the used up food and the relative air humidity in the control hives.

Keywords: hive, hybrid bees, bee-entrance, winter food.

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