



Mellifera

Organic Beekeeping Association

Why honeybees need GMO free
Europe and how bee-keepers have
changed
the co-existence debate

Thomas Radetzki
European Parliament
5th September, 2012

Bees and GMO in Agriculture

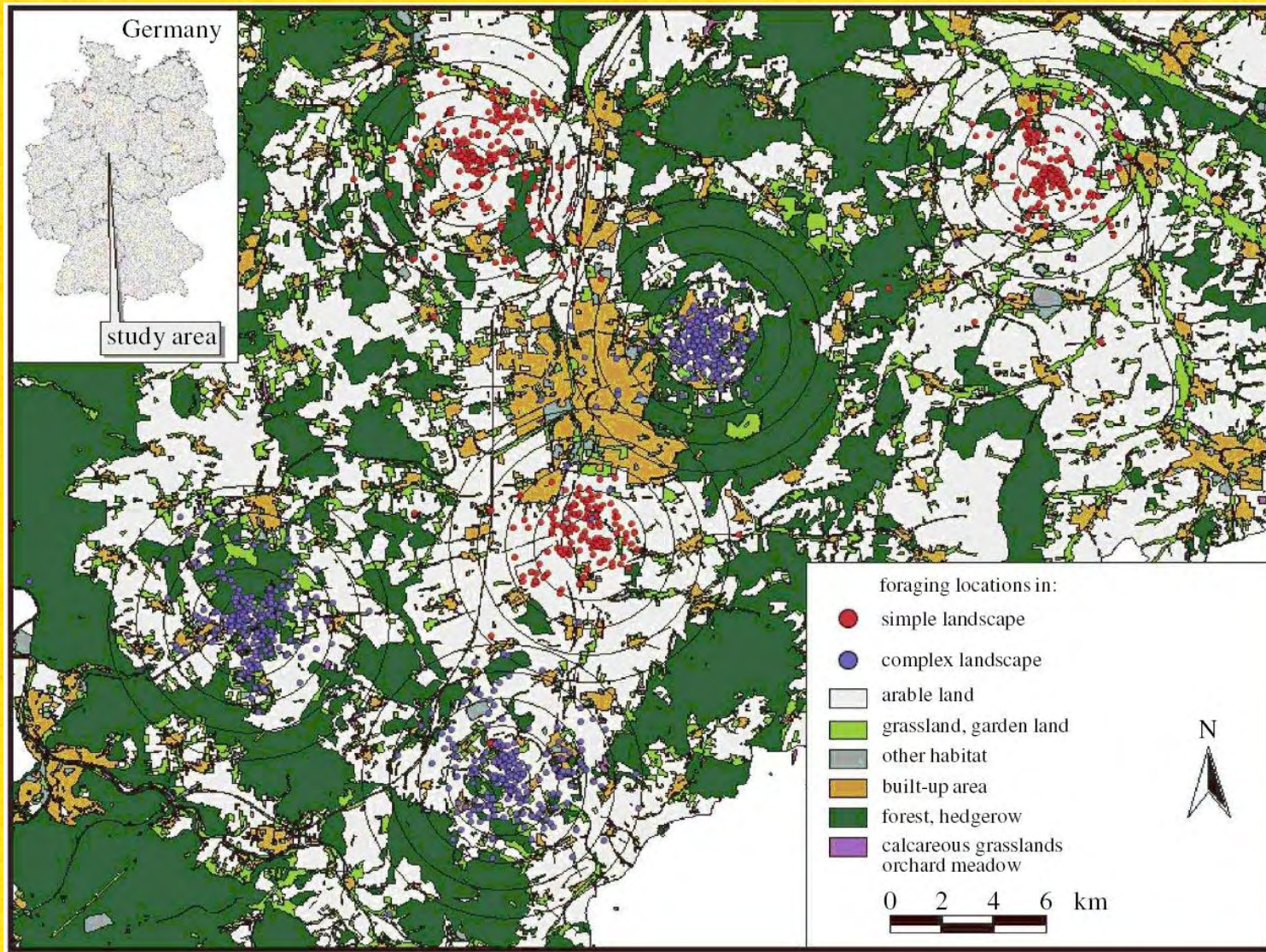


as van Elsen



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Area covered by one colony



The way through the courts

- May 2007: rush decision of Augsburg Administrative Court:
 - farmers must take measures to protect beekeepers from such pollen in their honey
 - beekeepers have a claim against authorities to put safety precautions into practice
- June 2007: rush decision Munich High Administrative Court:
 - there is no problem and beekeepers don't have any claims
- 30th May, 2008: main proceedings at Augsburg Administrative Court:
 - honey is no longer marketable if it contains pollen of MON810
 - beekeepers have no right for protection
 - **beekeepers must remove their hives!**
 - Question of compensation unanswered



Displaced bees of Charly Bablok and neighbours



GMO Contaminated Honey depolluted in waste combustion



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The way through the courts

- **26th October, 2009:** Bavarian Higher Administrative Court wants the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to answer several basic questions
- **6th September, 2011:**

Victory at the European Court of Justice



- » Pollen has to be dealt as an ingredient of honey
- » Even small amounts of GMO pollen from plants not approved as food, make Honey not marketable
- » Zero-tolerance prinzip

The way through the courts

- **16th March, 2012:** Bavarian Higher Administrative Court:
 - beekeeper Bablok has no claim for protection or compensation
- **Presently:** Federal Administrative Court, Leipzig:
 - case is pending. Final level of jurisdiction in order to apply the ECJ-decision to a practical case



- **Beekeeper continue fight for their right to coexistence**
- **Zero-tolerance**
- **Free choice of consumer**
- **Right of bee for natural GMO free food**





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