



Asian Honey Bee

Apis cerana

A natural host of the Varroa mite



ABOUT

In North Queensland a population of the Asian bee, *Apis cerana*, Java strain has become established in an area referred to as the Known Infested Area (KIA).

To date this Asian bee is still confined to North Queensland but has the potential to rapidly spread further, especially by transportation on land or by sea.

The Asian bee is the natural host of the devastating Varroa mite and around the world these mites have caused mass disruption to crop pollination and honey production. Fortunately the swarm of Asian bees (*Apis cerana*, Java strain) found in Cairns in 2007 was not carrying this mite.

The Asian bee is now endemic in the Known Infested Areas in the northern part of Queensland but carry no Varroa mites.

In 2016, 2019 and 2020 unrelated incursions of Asian bees were found in Townsville and Varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*) were found on these bees. Since 2016 these incursions have been the subject of the National Varroa Mite Eradication program.

Extensive work has been carried out to find and eradicate these mites by locating and eradicating the Asian bees.

Townsville and mainland Australia are now free of this exotic mite *Varroa jacobsoni*, as Australia keeps its status as the only major honey producing country in the world to be free from this highly invasive varroa mite.

Beekeepers and members of the general public are strongly encouraged to report all Asian honey bee sightings, outside of the 'Known Infested Area' to Biosecurity Queensland.

Asian bees, other than *Apis cerana javana*, are listed as prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014.



Above: Asian honey bee comparison. On the left Asian honey bee, on the right a European honey bee: Image Paul Zborowski, Biosecurity Queensland, [Business.qld.gov.au](https://business.qld.gov.au).

Top Left: Asian honey bees on comb. Image: Qld Government, [Business.qld.gov.au](https://business.qld.gov.au).

TAKE ACTION

If you see or suspect the presence of Asian honey bees in Australia, report the pest IMMEDIATELY.

CONTACT

Report all suspect sightings to: Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scan the QR Code or click here for more information about Asian honey bees from Biosecurity Queensland.



Early detection is essential to ensure any exotic bees entering Australia are contained

**Information provided in this fact sheet was accurate as at 17/12/21*