

Varroa Control

Brood Trap Cage

Introduction

Beekeepers are becoming aware that biotechnical (manipulative) processes, when schemed together, are enabling them to keep *Varroa* infestation down to such a low level that chemical treatments are only occasionally needed.

These methods are queen trapping, artificial swarms and drone capping. The method for using each of these is described in the literature (see References section at the end of this chapter) These are physical methods of control, to which the mites can never develop resistance.

This article shows how to make a brood trap cage.

Queen Trapping

Queen trapping however, needs a special cage, but is quite straightforward to make, and is cheaper than buying ready made ones. A standard sheet of plastic queen excluder, can provide cladding for the two outside faces if cut down and nailed or stapled onto the frames.

A pair of frames is needed for a brood cage. These are the same outside dimensions as the brood frames in use and are used to sandwich one containing drawn comb. Local DIY stores usually have a range of planed wood sections. The final size required is 10 x 15cm. These sizes are not finely critical. The 15mm dimension is meant to space the excluder away from the comb face.

Hoffman frames may need the sidebar shoulders to be cut down.

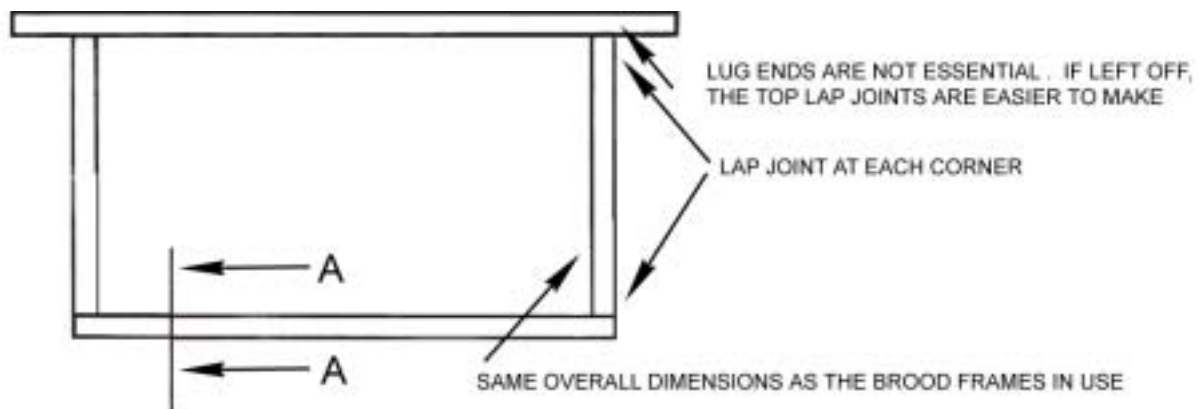


Fig 1 One of the pair of trapping frames needed to place either side of the brood frame



Addendum 1

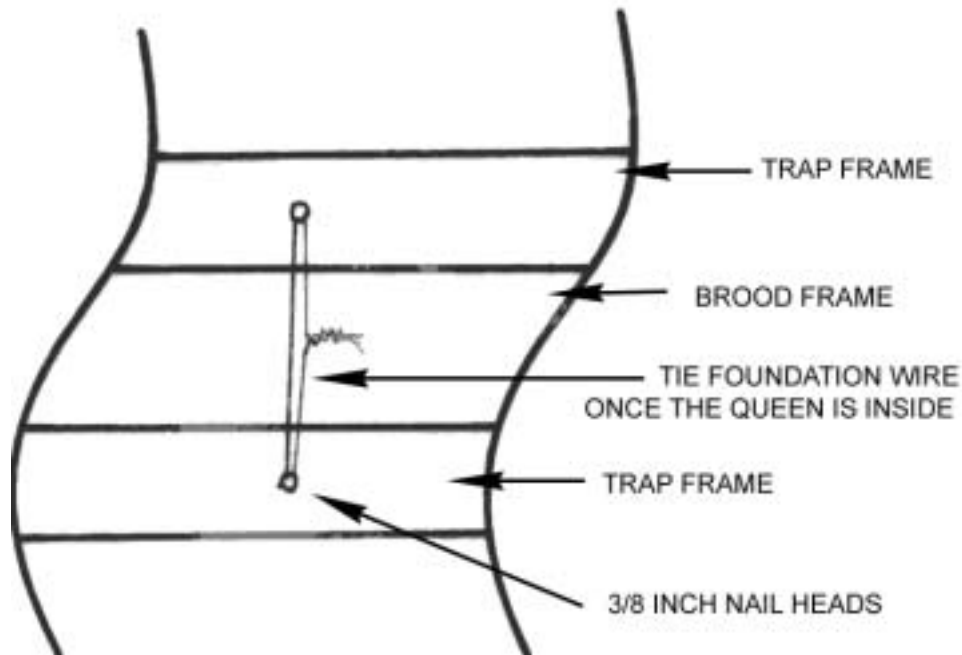


Fig 2 Brood frame trapped by two outer frames as seen from above

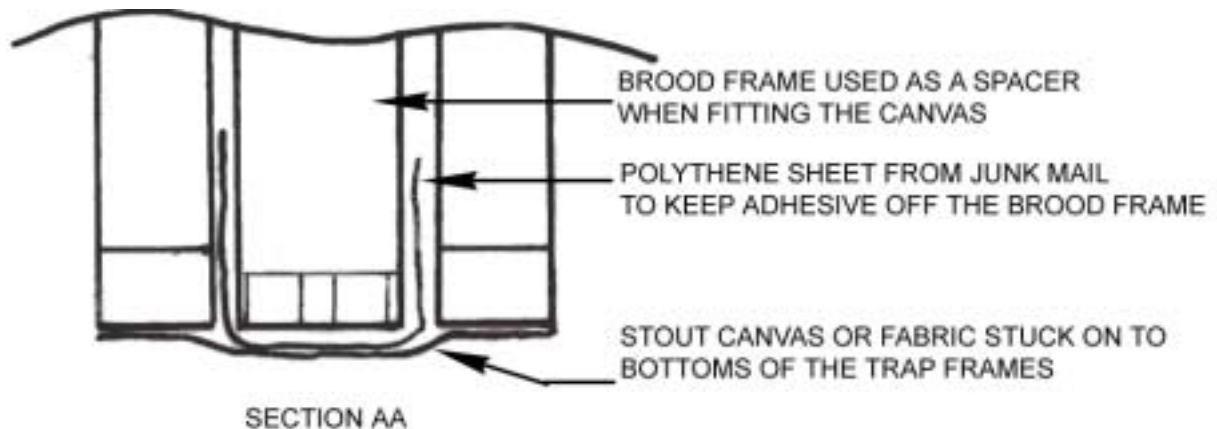


Fig 3 Cross Section showing trap frames either side of the brood frame to which the queen is confined

References

- Varroa control with the artificial swarm. David Aston. BeeCraft. May 2004.
- Drone trapping. David Aston. BeeCraft. April 2004.
- Queen trapping. Richard Ball. BBKA News. April 2004.
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