### **Brazilian Pollinators Initiative**



Vera Lucia Imperatriz Fonseca Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

Workshop on Solitary Bees: Conservation, Rearing and Management for Pollination - Beberibe, Ceará April 26-30, 2004

### **Brazilian Pollinators Initiative (BPI)**

- -Initial Steering Committee:
- Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, MMA
- Afonso Valois, EMBRAPA
- Vera Lucia Imperatriz Fonseca, USP
- Marina Siqueira Castro, EBDA
- Fernando Silveira, UFMG
- Breno M. Freitas, UFC

### Important milestones

- Sao Paulo Declaration on Pollinators Conservation (1998)
- BPI sessions at the Biennial Bee Meetings, Ribeirão Preto, 2000 and 2002
- World Bees Checklist Workshop, 2002
- The Sao Paulo Declaration on Pollinators plus 5 Forum (2003)
- The infoway (Webbee)
- BPI in other workshops
- The solitary bees workshop (2004)

### Important milestones

- The inclusion of BPI in the Federal Government Multi-Year Work Program for 2004-7
- The public call for projects on pollinators sustainable use, MMA September 2003 and January 2004
- A MOU between MMA & EMBRAPA on Biodiversity Research, October 2003
- Books publication: "Pollinating Bees: the Conservation link between Agriculture and Nature" (also available on line); "Brazilian Bees, Systematics and Identification"

# Sao Paulo Declaration on Pollinators - 1998

- Raised international interest
- Provided strategic direction for pollinator conservation planning
- Provided impetus for national and international programs

## BPI sessions at the Biennial Bee Meetings, Ribeirão Preto

- The most important Bee meeting in Brazil at this moment
- Scientific community discuss the main points in Bee Biology, Conservation and Applications
- The right Forum for joining researchers around the BPI
- Next meeting September 2004

## World Bees Checklist Workshop, 2002 (http://www.cria.org.br)

IN:Trends and developments in Biodiversity informatics Forum

#### **Objectives**

- To gather specialists together in an effort to organize our current knowledge on bee taxonomy.
- To establish a framework on which we can build a retrieval system where the information on the biological and ecological needs of pollinators and the plants they pollinate can be easily accessed.
- To propose a plan of action to build such a retrieval system.

## World Bees Checklist Workshop, 2002 (http://www.cria.org.br)

IN:Trends and developments in Biodiversity informatics Forum

#### **Products**

- A provisional checklist of the bee species of the world with geographic distributions by country and state/province.
   Preliminary list of world Colletinae species
- A worldwide list of bee taxonomists. Preliminary list
- A worldwide list of scientific collections containing bees -Preliminary list of Museums Collections
- World Bee Checklist Workshop Final Report

# The Sao Paulo Declaration on Pollinators plus 5 Forum (2003)

- 12 countries, 77 participantes
- Joined International Initiatives
- Two workshops:
  - Standard methodologies workshop
  - Pollinators Initiatives and the role of Information Technology: building synergism and cooperation

# The Sao Paulo Declaration on Pollinators plus 5 Forum (2003)

- Standard methodology workshop addressed
  - the methods related to pollinator-mediated gene flow;
    (coordinator: Dr. Claudia Jacobi)
  - to bee surveys and monitoring of bees as pollinators in natural landscapes; (coord. Dr. Fernando Silveira and Dr. Cynthia Pinheiro- Machado
  - to bee management for pollination purposes.
    - Honeybees: coord. Dr. David De Jong ©
    - Solitary bees: Dr. Breno M. Freitas 😉
    - Stingless bees: Dr. Marina Siqueira de Castro 🖯

# The Sao Paulo Declaration on Pollinators plus 5 Forum (2003)

- The IT workshop addressed the importance of the global facilities (as GBIF and other current services, for example ITIS), as tools for supporting and to join the local knowledge on bee names, checklists and regional catalogs, providing knowledge for policy makers.
- Presented the webbee



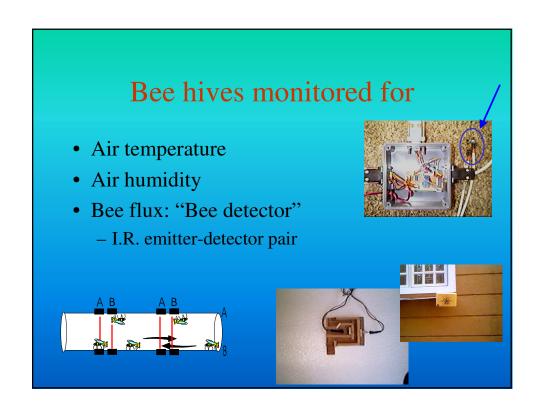
### outline

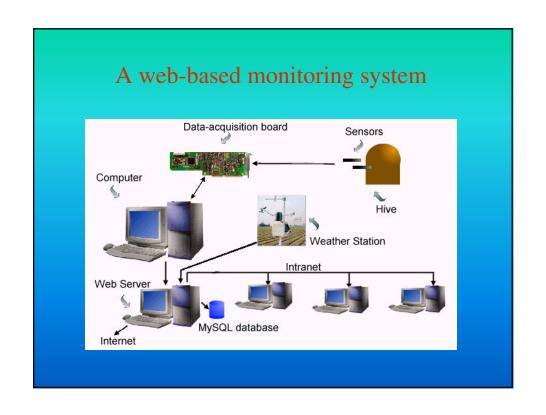
### WebBee:

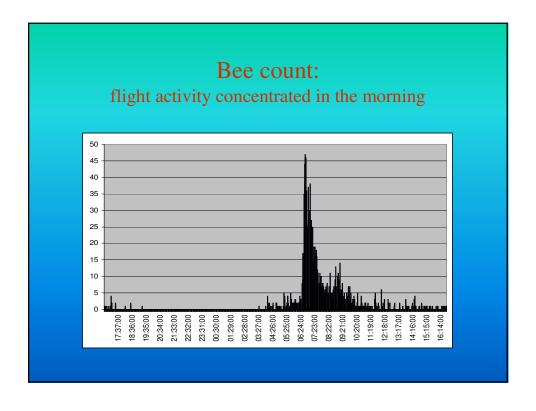
# From instrumentation to an information network

### Start: instrumentation

- in 1999, research on flight activity of stingless bees
- focus on automatic data acquisition
  - to get more and better data
  - to free the researchers from some time consuming and error-prone activities .





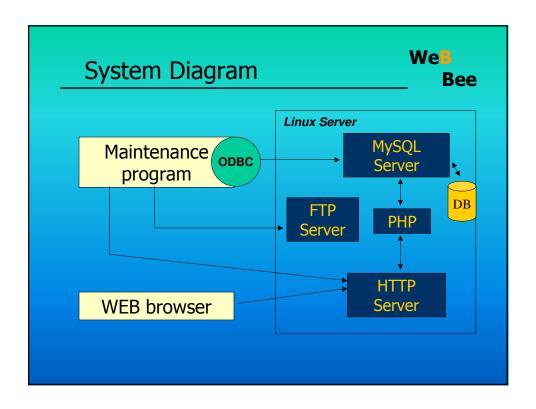


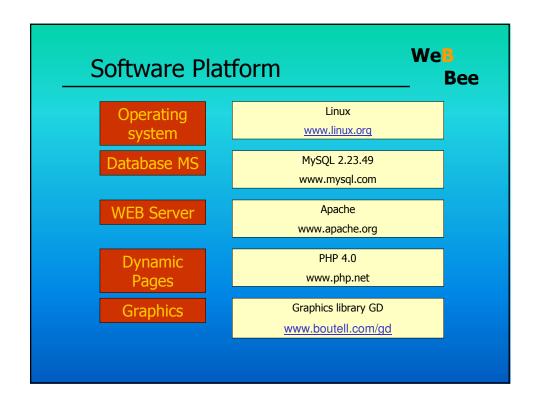
### A step ahead: an information system

- Knowledge and information on bees need to be
  - organized, preserved, shared, published(!)
- Target audience
  - scientists, beekeepers, students, teachers, policy makers, agricultural producers...
    - Increase public awareness on the importance and uses of pollinators
  - in Portuguese and other languages

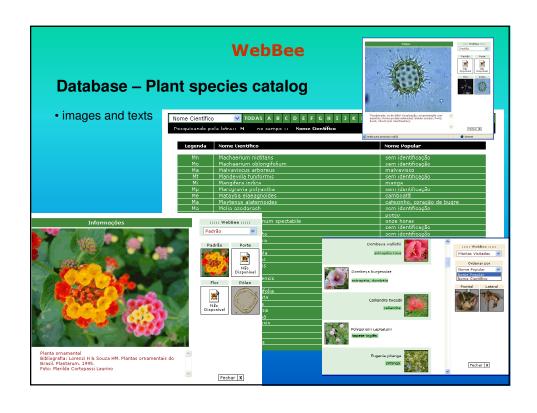
### WebBee: information system

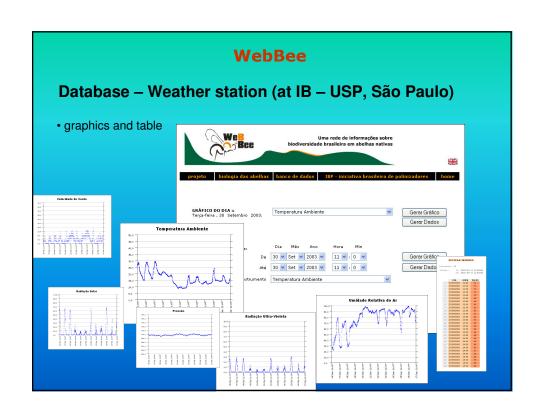
- Contents:
  - Bee species data: biology, taxonomy, distribution,
  - Hives, equipment & numerical data
  - Beekeeping, plants visited
  - References
  - Information source: Intelectual Property
  - Dynamic web pages: database
  - Multimedia: texts, images, videos
- Web-based: easy access and sharing











### Replicate WebBee

- Do other groups have similar needs and problems?
- $\odot$
- Does a single group have enough data to populate the system?
- How much time would it take?
- Do they have other data?

#### $\odot$

### WebBee - a network

- Groups cooperate on providing data
  - Species information
  - Experimental data / weather stations
  - − By region, species, family...
- Distributed Effort
  - Less work for each
  - Each is part of solution



### WebBee - a network

#### Important issues:

- Intellectual property
  - Contents: texts, photos, etc → author
  - Neutral domain: www.webbee.org.br
- WebBee: consortium
  - Partners
  - Invited researchers for their pages
  - Credit
  - Management



### BPI in other workshops

- Mabula Workshop (South Africa, June 2003)
- Managing Agricultural Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, CGIAR, Kenya, Oct 2003
- Apimondia Tropical Beekeeping: Research and Development for Pollination and Conservation, Costa Rica, Feb. 2004
- Inter- American workshop on environmental data Access- CRIA, Brazil, March 2004
- Beekeeping Brazilian Congress, Brazil, April 2004

### **Brazilian Government Actions**

- Supports the BPI in its initiatives
- Promoted the public call for projects on pollinators sustainable use (US\$ 500, 000 for 2003-4)
- Coordinates the Brazilian proposal for funding by Global Environmental Facility. (*Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture, Through an Ecosystem Approach*)

## Brazilian Pollinators Initiativenext steps

- To strength the participation of additional research groups in a common agenda, with:
  - Development of a knowledge base
  - Extension and promotion of pollinator-friendly best management practices
  - Capacity building and awareness raising
  - Sharing experiences and dissemination of results
- To replicate WebBee
- To encourage adoption of standards
- To share tools, methodologies, expertise

#### **Brazilian Pollinators Initiative**

- Acknowledges:
  - To all participants of the Solitary bees workshop
  - To Dr. Breno Magalhães Freitas, that organized this meeting
  - To the sponsors of Solitary Bees Workshop, that understood their importance for pollination purposes
  - To the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil