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Meluka Honey combines anti-microbial and anti-oxidant activity

Foraging on Melaleuca trees also found to benefit honeybee health

Highlights

- Honey and honeybee health research by Southern Cross University finds that honeybees foraging on Melaleuca trees produce a uniquely bioactive honey, unlike other bioactive honey
- It was found to combine strong immediate anti-oxidant activity, significantly higher than generic honey and sustained anti-microbial activity
- Additionally, foraging on Melaleuca trees delivered a benefit to bee health, where tea tree within the diet acted as a probiotic for metabolism, increasing beneficial detoxifying/immune defensive bacteria while maintaining nectar metabolism bacteria within the honeybees' gut
- The research, commissioned by Jenbrook for Meluka Honey, will help it finalise its product offering of honey and topical products, leveraging the unique and beneficial characteristics from the Melaleuca alternifolia tree

EVE Investments (ASX:EVE), an ASX listed health, nutrition and wellness investment company, today announces the findings of research trials conducted by Dr David Rudd of Southern Cross University at Jenbrook's certified organic tea tree (Melaleuca alternifolia tree) plantations in the Bungawalbyn Valley region in New South Wales. The research demonstrated two key findings, as outlined below.

Firstly, the research found that bees foraging on Melaleuca trees (*Melaleuca alternifolia*) produced a multi-bioactive honey that has strong immediate anti-oxidant properties, significantly higher than generic honey and sustained anti-microbial activity. This high bioactivity was not reliant on post-harvest ripening and was directly attributed to the natural bioactive properties of tea tree.

The second key finding was that foraging on Melaleuca trees was beneficial to bee metabolism and immune defence. Diet supplementation with tea tree was found to act as a probiotic, increasing the proportion of the beneficial bacteria family *Neisseriaceae*, which contains the species *Snodgrassella alvi* that is responsible for gut immune function. Importantly, the report also concluded that tea tree supplementation did not limit the diverse foraging that honeybees need for health and honey production.

The research findings will help Meluka Honey to finalise its products and to deliver improvements in product formulation, production, handling, storage and transport. In addition, Meluka Honey will develop its marketing approach to leverage the unique and beneficial features of the products.

Dr David Rudd of Southern Cross University commented on the research:

"Our research trials found that foraging on Melaleuca trees produced a honey that combines immediate anti-oxidant activity and a significant sustained anti-microbial activity. Additionally, we found that foraging on Melaleuca trees was beneficial to the bees acting as a probiotic and supporting gut immune function. In other words, Meluka Honey is beneficial for both honeybee and human health."

Bill Fry, Executive Director of EVE Investments commented on the research results:

"The findings of Southern Cross University's research into the bioactivity of Meluka Honey and the impact of foraging on old growth tea tree plantations on bee health, are very exciting. The combined bioactivity is believed to be unique to Meluka products, providing a compelling advantage for Meluka Honey. We are also excited that there is a clear benefit to the honeybees."

The findings are from research trials that evaluate the anti-oxidant bioactivity and chemical properties of tea tree honey for topical uses and consumption, as well as the impact of foraging on old growth Melaleuca trees on honeybee health within the honeybee digestive tract, and the effect of tea tree on the honeybee gut microbiome. During the research trials, tea tree was provided to the honeybees as a diet supplement and honeybees were also allowed to naturally forage throughout the old growth plantations.

The findings were detailed in a report entitled: "Chemical profile and bioactive properties of Tea Tree (Melaleuca alternifolia) based honey products: 'HON-E-VITE' Active Serum and Australian Native Melaleuca Alternifolia Honey," which was commissioned by Jenbrook Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of EVE.

The research report is expected to form the basis of a scientific peer review journal article submission by Dr Rudd.

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About EVE Investments
EVE Investments invests in technology companies with a focus on the medical nutrition sector. The Company's investment strategy has a three-pronged approach.

1. To invest in businesses that are in the early growth phase with the aim to support their expansion programs.
2. To identify products that have unique medicinal properties and a global reach application.
3. Preference for natural organic products that have demonstrated medicinal benefits.

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