INSEMINATION OF THE QUEEN

Susan Cobey

To expose the vaginal orifice of the queen, the abdominal plates are separated using a pair of hooks or forceps. The large sting structure is lifted up and dorsally.

The valvefold, a stretchy flap of tissue covering the median oviduct, is bypassed. Semen is inserted directly into the median oviduct.

The syringe tip is used to bypass the valvefold. The tip is slipped beneath the valvefold and lifted ventrally. The angle of the syringe, and a slight “zigzag” movement is used to maneuver around the valvefold.

Position the syringe tip dorsally above the "V", defining the vaginal orifice.

Insert the tip about 0.5 mm, slightly forward of the apex of the "V". Positioned correctly, the tip slips easily past the valvefold without resistance. Insert the tip another 0.5 to 1.0 mm into the median oviduct.

Bypassing the valvefold allows passage of the tip into the median oviduct. Test placement of the tip, preceding the insemination with a drop of saline, then insert a measured amount of semen, 8 to 10 ìl is the standard dose per queen.

With practice, the insertion of semen is preformed quickly and precisely, requiring only seconds per queen.

There are a variety of tools to choose from. Use is based on personal preference.