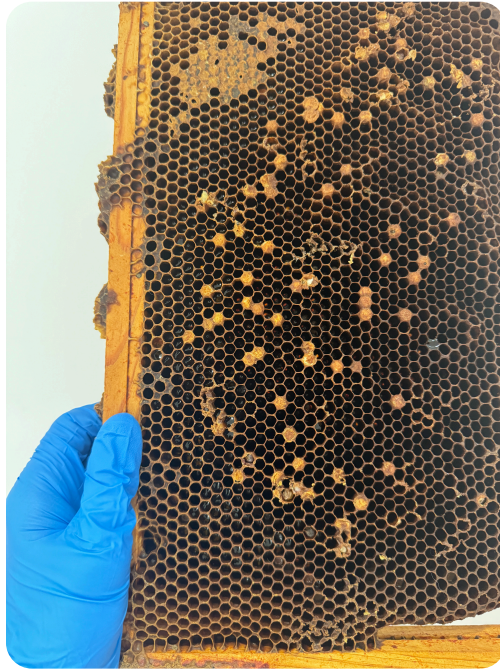


# How to prepare drone bee larvae for feeding Swifts!!



**It is a good idea to use larvae of drones as a valuable (ecological, no added pesticide) supplement to the diet for Swifts. It has high nutritional value in terms of protein quality and quantity.**

**Beekeepers routinely remove some of the drone larvae early in the season in order to lessen the prevalence of Varroa mites. Larvae are the first stage of a drone bee's development – when they still look like a curled-up fat white worm.**



**The best way to get the larvae out of the sticky honeycomb is to freeze it. Cut the comb into smaller pieces and put to plastic bags and than to the freezer. From previously frozen pieces extract larvae from the hexagonal cells. Then larvae should be blanched. Put them into a boiling water for 2-3 min and than pour on the strainer with cold water. Drain on paper towel and freeze again small portions in plastic bags. For feeding defrost larvae in room temperature and use 1-2 larvae per meal.**

**Recently research has shown that drone larvae can be frozen and stored for up to 10 months without severe loss or change of taste and your swift patients will be very grateful to you.**

