Eurythmy with bees

MAILIN WOLKI

Eurythmy therapy is therapeutic movement working with the archetypal gestures that underpin the visible world and all life, and that form our speech.

This article has been considerably shortened. The author undertook the project in connection with bee expert Dr Johannes Wirz, and shared impressions and experiences at the Agricultural Conference at the Goetheanum 2026.

In 2020 I undertook an area of research to investigate whether eurythmy therapy could reduce the effects of the Varroa parasite in bee colonies.

Could success or otherwise be judged by listening to the sounds of the bees?

Eurythmy is mainly a therapy for humans. In my pilot study for the Eurythmy Therapy Masters, I view bees similarly to people. I moved therapeutic eurythmy exercises for a beehive, just as I might for a human patient, such as a newborn, unable to perform the movements consciously. I stood next to or to the side opposite the entrance hole so as not to be in the bees' way and not to irritate them with the movements. The treatment was short, lasting 5-15 minutes. I thought that eurythmy might have a stronger effect on bees than on humans.

In 2020 I started this research in Dornach, Switzerland, visiting eight bee colonies. They were Apis Mellifera bees, kept according to Demeter guidelines in a biodynamic environment. I worked with eurythmy in 2021 from 10th March to the end of July. Four hives served as comparison hives, without any direct influence from eurythmy therapy. In 2022, I gave the eurythmy treatment in a similar time-frame for both the experimental and the comparison colonies.

It is beyond the remit of this article to include Mailin's description of the eurythmy therapy. Please be in touch if you would like to know more. **Editor**

Results

Regarding Varroa infestation, I was unable to observe significant results in 2021 and 2022. To achieve that, I should have applied eurythmy methods to a larger number of colonies starting as early as 2021.

In spring 2021. Dr Johannes Wirz suspected that the experimental colony was unlikely to survive the next few months due to its weakness and being severely affected by the wing deformation virus. By summer, however, whilst receiving a lot of eurythmy, it stabilized and grew into its largest colony.

Acoustic observations in 2021

In 2021 a person with perfect pitch[7], Pangwei Yin, observed the bees' acoustics before, during and after eurythmy therapy. She listened with one ear directly to the boxes and took up to half an hour for each colony to listen to its own sound before I started the eurythmy. Pangwei Yin observed that the bees' reaction to the eurythmy therapy varied. In a comparison before, during and after the eurythmy therapy, she described that the bees sounded first more excited, then harmonised or calmer. She repeatedly listened to the overall sound of the bees.

During the course of the therapy, Dr Wirz and I could observe a clear change in the sound of the bees. As soon as the therapy began, the bees sounded calmer and deeper and the bees running into the box began to spray more pheromones.

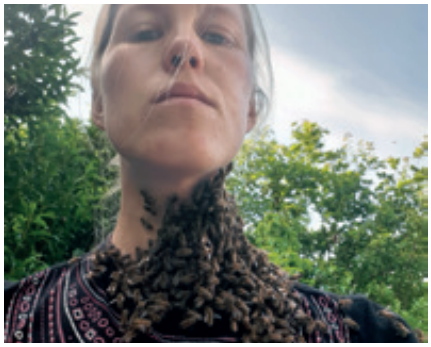
Bioacoustic observations in 2022

In 2022 ten beehives were given eurythmy therapy under the same conditions as in 2021 to investigate how bee colonies react acoustically to eurythmy. These were recorded with a bio-acoustic recording device. (Labmaker, audiomoth V1.2). The noises and sounds produced by the bees were documented before, during and after eurythmy and visualised as a spectogram.

In eight of the eleven analysable audio recordings, an acoustic change could be detected with the beginning and/or the end of the time in which eurythmy was performed next to the bees.

Remarkably, the sound of the quieter colonies intensified and the sound of the louder colonies calmed down.

Mailin Wolki is a eurythmist working in Germany.



While catching a swarm in summer 2026, Herdecke, Germany.



Eurythmy with bees 2026 in Witten, Germany.



Eurythmy with bees 2021 in Dornach, Switzerland, exceptionally, in the midst of the colonies.