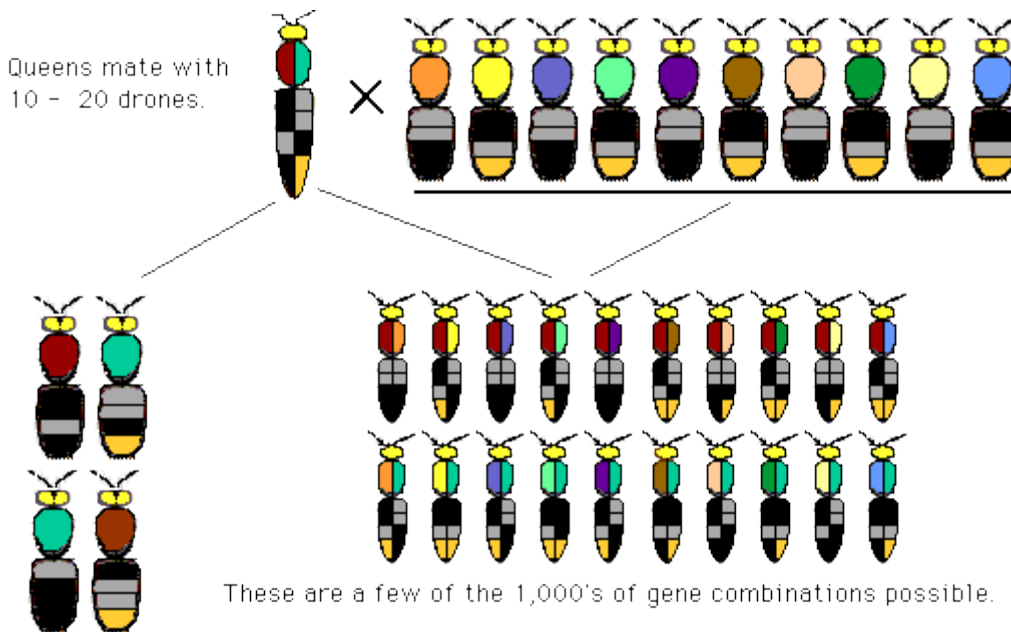


Queen mating

How To

Setting up Mating Nucs

- Cells are placed in queenless colonies the day before they hatch.
- The mating process is usually only 75% successful.
- Small mating colonies minimize the losses due to unsuccessful queens.
- 3- or 4way mating nucs are convenient for small scale hobby queen rearing.
- Cells can be placed in any queenless colony.
- Most queenless colonies will accept cells without queen cell protectors.
- Recent research shows that queen quality is best when they are left to lay eggs in the nuc for about a month.



- Queens are ready to mate 5-7 days after hatching.
- Temperature must be at least 20 C with no strong winds.
- Virgin queens mate with 10 to 20 drones on one or more flights.
- Drones and queens may fly a mile or more to drone congregation areas.
- Queens will begin laying eggs 2 to 4 days after mating.
- Mating can be delayed up to 3 weeks and still be successful.



Single mating nuc. (5 frames)



Three way mating nuc. (3x5 frames)



Four way mini mating nuc.

Queen bee's wedding flight, from "More than Honey"

<https://youtu.be/89rtOiiFcoQ>