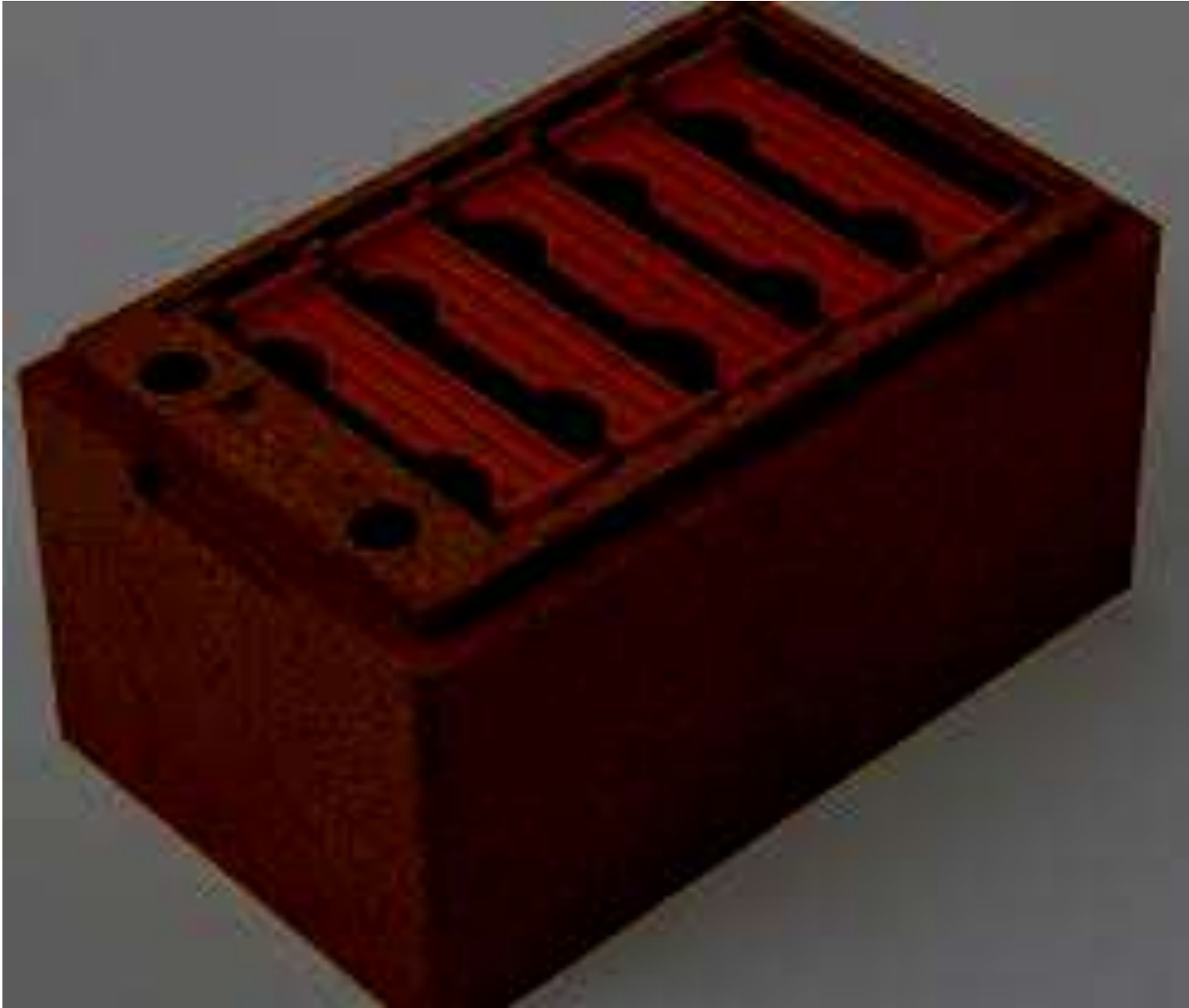


# Queen Mating with Mini Nucs

## Advantages of mini nucs

- Only need a small amount of bee to tend sealed QC/tend virgin
- May be used several times a season
- Allows BK to raise more queens than he/she might normally do
- Far easier to make up full size nucs with a supply of mated queens
- Adds another dimension of interest to beekeeping









# Use of mini nuc

1. Production of queen cells
2. Population of mini nuc
3. Siting of mini nuc and precautions
4. Introduction of queen cell and acceptance
5. Checking for mated queen

# Production of queen cells

- Many ways to produce queen cells
- All require the bees to feel queenless
- Harvest QC's 2-3 days before hatching











# Population of mini nuc

- Each mini nuc requires a “cupful” of bees
- Works better if bees come from same hive as Queen Cell but not necessary.
- Fill mini nuc with bees and remove to mating site
- Introduce QC the following day when bees have settled down
- Problems! Robbing, Flying bees absconding



# Siting of mini nuc

- .Use remote mating apiary if possible
- .Orientate mini nucs in different directions
- .Secure mini nucs



# Introduction of queen cell

- .Queens cells should be introduced 2-3 days before hatching
- .Can be introduced the same time as bees if from same colony
- .Either “press” QC in to mini nuc comb or through hole in plastic cover (apidea)
- .Check at later date to ensure QC has hatched







# Check for mated queen

- Approx 2-3 weeks after hatch date check for eggs
- Be careful not to crush bees/queen!
- If no sign of brood after 4-5 weeks look for Queen, if seen give her a bit more time

# Re-use of mini nuc

- .Remove mated queen
- .Wait a day or so to ensure bees feel queenless
- .Introduce new queen cell
- .Remove any other QC's the bees may have started to build
- .Carry on as before!