

Course Intro ...



A little later, after the train has jumped over the brook into the Fourth Square, Alice finds herself sitting quietly under a tree when the Gnat enquires

“ - *then you don't like all insects?*” the Gnat went on, as quietly as if nothing had happened.

“*I like them when they can talk,*” Alice said.

“*None of them ever talk, where I come from*”.

“*What sort of insects do you rejoice in, where you come from?*” the Gnat inquired.

“*I don't rejoice in insects at all*”, Alice explained .... “*But I can tell you the names of some of them.*”

“*Of course they answer to their names?*” the Gnat remarked carelessly.

“*I never knew them to do it.*”

“*What's the use of their having names,*” the Gnat said,

“*if they won't answer to them?*”

“*No use to them,*” said Alice; “*but its useful to the people that name them, I suppose. If not, why do things have names at all?*”

*Through the Looking-Glass*

Lewis Carroll (1872)



**Carniolans: dark bodies with pale hair, slender, broad stripes of tomentum on the abdomens**





**Workers with an Italian look, but actually Cordovans, a genetic variant**





***Apis mellifera mellifera*, Irish native honeybees, posted on a forum by Keith Pierce**





**Amm bees in my apiary: brown hair, stocky dark bodies**





**Buckfast: a bred strain, clear grey tomentum bands, orange stripes, pale hairs**

... apart from learning some names

*Some aspirations for the day:*

- Raising good queens
- Some principles
- What makes a good bee?
- Can we breed for diseases and pests?
- How can we measure purity of races?
- Conserving our native bee – where can we go?