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119th MBA CONVENTION, AGM & TRADESHOW

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association Annual General Meeting will be held during the 119th Convention February 20 -22, 2025 at the Hilton Airport Suites and Hotel in Winnipeg. All information, agenda and speaker list inside this edition.

www.manitobabee.org



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Newsletter Editor

Dan Lecocq Phone or text: (204) 797-3322 Email: <u>dnlecocq@shaw.ca</u>

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Welcome Shaun Kendrick!

The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association would like to welcome Shaun Kendrick as the new secretary.

As a lifelong resident of Manitoba's Interlake region with significant international experience, I bring a unique blend of local knowledge and global perspective to the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association board. After growing up in the Southern Interlake area and spending a transformative decade overseas, I've returned to establish roots in the Central Interlake region, where I continue to contribute to agricultural advancement and community development.

In my current role as an Applied Research Technician at the Provincial Diversification Center, I've developed crucial skills that align perfectly with board responsibilities. My daily work involves managing complex financial operations, coordinating research initiatives, and facilitating effective communication between various stakeholders. The dual role of secretary and treasurer has honed my ability to maintain accurate records, manage finances transparently, and ensure smooth organizational operations.

My professional journey has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of agricultural operations and business management. From leading dairy operations in New Zealand to improving retail performance at the Pet store my wife and I owned, and managing large-scale dairy operations here in Manitoba, I've consistently demonstrated my ability to drive growth and implement effective systems. This diverse experience has taught me valuable lessons in animal health management, operational efficiency, and team leadership – all skills that will benefit the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association.

As your newly appointed secretary, I am enthusiastic about applying my expertise in financial management, organizational leadership, and agricultural operations to help the Manitoba Bee Association thrive. My collaborative approach, combined with a strong work ethic and problem-solving abilities, positions me to make meaningful contributions to your organization's continued success and growth.



I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside the board and its members and contribute to the advancement of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association's mission and goals.



Canadian Honey Council

As I'm sure most of you are aware that CFIA released their risk assessment on package bees from the USA. CFIA deemed the risks too high to open the border for imports, CFIA opened a 60 Day period ending Jan 9, 2025 for industry to develop and propose risk mitigation strategies to lower the risks to safe levels which may allow import. The Canadian Honey Council held a special meeting November 22 in regards to CFIAs' request and in regards to a request by the Alberta Beekeepers Commission. The CHC passes the following Motion.

"That the Canadian Honey Council support a national effort to cooperate with a consultant to develop scientific mitigation protocols that CFIA can use to determine whether or not the four risks identified as moderate in the "Risk Management framework on the importation of honey bee packages from the United States" can be reduced to negligible."

Moved by Ryan Hicks Seconded by Maggie Lamothe Boudreau

Carried Unanimously.

The ABC has hired Serecon as the con<mark>sulting company in favor of the</mark> CHC and other industry groups.

As the month progressed it was realized by the groups involved in this project that due to the timing of 60 day period many important industry and scientific figures had holiday commitments, a request was put into CFIA to extend the deadline to January 31st which CFIA approved.

The North American Strategy is nearing completion as the final draft is currently being written and should be presented in the early new year.

The ABF and AHPA have raised concerns around which countries Canada currently import stock from and the import protocols around each country, the CHC is putting together a chart with each country and it's respective protocols to send to the ABF and AHPA.

I hope to see many of you at the Bee Tech Meeting in Ottawa Feb 6-8!

Osee Podolsky

New Zealand Queens often receive bad press for performance and issues with supersedure. This is proven to relate to package dehydration on the journey to your farm. Hiveworld monitors not only critical temperature and humidity, but we also chill the bees with refrigeration and NOT airflow during transport.

January 2025

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Advance Payments

Programme de paiements anticipés January 2025

The Manitoba Beekeeper

New Chapter in Apiculture at the University of Manitoba

By Nuria Morfin I <u>nuria.morfin@umanitoba.ca</u> I <u>https://</u> umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/entomology/ nuria-morfin

I am honoured to have joined the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba as an Assistant Professor in Apiculture and Honey Bee Biology. This role is meaningful to me, both personally and professionally, as I become part of a team with a rich legacy in apicultural research.

My journey with honey bees began during my undergraduate studies in Mexico, working with Africanized honey bees. I later ventured into entrepreneurship, managing a small apiary for honey production and eventually transitioning to managing stingless bees near the Gulf of Mexico for pollination services.

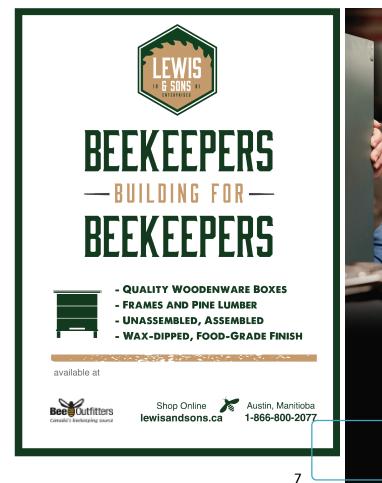
My academic path led me to the Honey Bee Research Centre at the University of Guelph, where I studied the stressors impacting honey bees (like insecticides, varroa mites, and viral diseases), and studying defence mechanisms of honey bees against mites. In Ontario, I also served as a bee inspector for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusinesses and as an instructor with the Ontario Technology Transfer Program. These experiences (and great mentors!) prepared me to lead the British Columbia Technology Transfer Program for three years, where I gained a deep appreciation for the Canadian beekeeping industry, its challenges, and its opportunities.

Now, I'm excited to connect with Manitoba beekeepers and work together on research and extension initiatives to strengthen the industry. Drawing from my background in technology transfer programs, I am particularly enthusiastic about collaborating with the Knowledge and Research Transfer Program. While beekeepers worldwide face common challenges, addressing local issues is vital.

My immediate focus is on building relationships with Manitoba beekeepers, developing a robust program with our team, and continuing to support the remarkable legacy of the University of Manitoba Honey Bee Lab, following the path that Dr. Rob Currie left. I am also excited to collaborate with agricultural partners to support the role of beekeeping as an integral component of Manitoba's agricultural landscape.



Nuria Morfin evaluating colonies in blueberry fields (Photo: Julia Common)



Beekeepers Growing Project

INTERLAKE REPORT

Paul Gregory

I hope everyone is doing well. Our family are skiers, so no warm holidays this winter, but kudos to those that can get away !

Anyway .. lots of interesting YouTube videos out there to watch this winter and contemplate on; but I found a really great one by Steve Riley called " The honeybee solution to varroa ". This is a bee researcher in the UK that has great data , research and a path forward for our industry . The jist of the video is that there are bee populations throughout the world that are resistant to Varroa . We do have these genetics in North America but not available commercially ... why not ? He does explain this paradigm in detail , but it is really up to as an industry to promote the idea that we can do this . We have the tools: Harbo assays, UBO, cell recapping observations , mite drop counts and of course mite washing.

We as beekeepers , have to start pressuring queen suppliers to do a better job in supplying resistant bees . Our livelihood depends on it .

On the "honey trade " side of things - interesting times ! Hopefully, as you are reading this; Donald Trump comes into office and leaves Canada alone for tariff actions. But, as we all know American beekeepers do have a voice in Washington, and a protective action may be brought down against our industry. Hopefully, things will work out and when you have a chance to travel; build bridges with our American friends. I do think their international border is " Leakier" than our honey border and upscale testing should be done on all domestic and international honey.

Our MBA board, P.A. and others ,think this would be a great time to engage with all the beekeepers on resurrecting the Manitoba Queen Breeders Association. I do think a formal sharing of genetics would benefit everyone, especially with the ease of virtual meetings to get things going.

We will raise this idea at the AGM - looking forward to collaborating and hearing from the industry.

All the best in the New Year

Cheers, Paul

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Manitoba Beekeepers Association Director's Report 🍘

As Chairman of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report on the consistent attendance and strong participation of our elected directors. Their active engagement in managing board business has been invaluable, and it has made the process of addressing ongoing issues more efficient and productive. The collaborative way in

which the board approaches its work is something that contributes to the smooth functioning of our association.

While the role of Chairperson can be demanding, I find it rewarding to be closely involved in the operations of our industry. It provides me with a clear understanding of the challenges we face and the important role our board plays in addressing them. I believe the rest of the board shares a similar sense of purpose, as evidenced by their punctuality and involvement in meetings. We can accomplish a significant amount of work in a short period, which is made possible by everyone's understanding that, as volunteers, we all have busy schedules. To make the most of our time, detailed discussions are typically reserved for committee meetings, ensuring our board meetings remain focused.



Ian Steppler with Jim Campbell at the January Red River Apiarist Association.

The board has also been discussing ways to involve more members in our activities. Some members may be interested in participating but are unsure about the time commitments or the nature of board business. In a recent conversation with the Executive Director of the Alberta Beekeepers Commission (ABC), I learned that they have a program that allows non-directors to attend portions of board meetings. While these members can participate in discussions, they do not have board-level voting privileges. This approach has proven effective in encouraging more member involvement.

If there is interest in a similar program within our association, I invite members to reach out to me. We would be happy to explore a pilot program based on the ABC's model. Currently, non-directors are welcome to attend committee meetings and participate in discussions on specific initiatives. Having been someone who was initially hesitant to get involved, I understand the value of providing opportunities for members who are interested in participating but may be unsure about how to start.

In closing, I appreciate the ongoing dedication of our directors and the contributions of our members. We are committed to finding ways to further strengthen the connection between the board and the membership, and we welcome any feedback or suggestions for improving member engagement.

Sincerely, Ian Steppler Chairman, Manitoba Beekeepers Association



This winter marks the completion of my second season with the KRTP as Program Lead, and the program itself is now entering its third year of a fiveyear funding period. In order to best serve the beekeeping community and secure future funding, it's vital that we maintain momentum and balance within the program as each year builds on the preceding one. My responsibility is to

ensure that we continue to fulfill all the key metrics in our Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding agreement and meet the expectations of the apiculture community.

An essential component of our strategic planning is the annual KRTP Steering Committee meeting. This meeting serves to realign program priorities and develop strategies in accordance with the evolving needs of beekeepers and collaborators, which include researchers and industry partners. More broadly, this meeting provides oversight and centres the priorities of the MBA membership. As I become more familiar with the MB community, and with the previously mentioned directions guiding the KRTP forward, I consistently look to beekeepers to understand your challenges and interests. Our ongoing conversations and your engagement with the KRTP play a vital role in shaping the program as it evolves year after year.

Before highlighting a few of the major activities undertaken this past year, I'd like to take a moment to remind the membership of the program's core purpose.

The KRTP mandate was conceived with four pillars: i) education, ii) services to beekeepers, iii) applied research, and iv) communication. The KRTP focuses on honey bee health, integrated pest management strategies, best management practices for local conditions, community engagement, and overall betterment of the beekeeping industry. To support Manitoba beekeepers in maintaining optimal bee health and productivity the KRTP mission



includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Contribute to filling knowledge gaps between research and realworld application.
- Develop and share knowledge and practices that reflects shifting environmental, biologic, and economic

conditions. The end goal is to make sure beekeepers are aware of the most up-to-date information that they can benefit from adopting.

• Facilitate connections between the beekeeping community and apicultural researchers to advance science and practice.

2024/2025 Research Update

Varroa Control Product from GreenLight Biosciences

We completed a second year testing GreenLight Bio's varroa treatment, Norroa[™]. Standardizing the mite levels in our trial colonies helped the trial go smoothly and we produced clear data on its efficacy in 2024. As of writing this report, we are putting together a presentation of the results. As is common in corporate product development, our non-disclosure agreement prevents us from sharing the results in a publication at this time. However, we're excited to present the full details of our methods and results at the convention this February. The KRTP's rigourous and independent testing of this product will provide a credible local source of information for beekeepers. For GreenLight Bio, Canadian efficacy data is critical for the registration process with Canada's Pest Management and Regulation Agency (PMRA). If you would like to learn about the mode of action of the active ingredient (*vadescana*) you can find a detailed explanation in the October 2024 issue of the American Bee Journal. In short, it prevents the

production of offspring of the varroa mite – thereby reducing the mites' ability to build up the population. This approach will complement existing mite control products that target the phoretic adult mites and should reduce the amount of feeding on the developing bee larvae.

2024/2025 Winter Project: Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Oxalic Acid Glycerin Extended-Release Strips Oxalic acid (OA) is used in a variety of ways depending on the applicator type, excipient, dosage, number of applications, timing of treatments, etc. While OA glycerin extended-release strips are *not* yet a registered method of varroa control (the CHC submitted an application for registration with PMRA in 2024), there's a need to continually learn about the most effective and practical approaches for using this method in our region.

The KRTP is partnering with Dr. Sarah Wood and Dr. Alvaro de la Mora Peña from the University of Saskatchewan to conduct an experiment using oxalic acid glycerin strips in an indoor wintering environment, focused on efficacy and safety. The study targets the underutilized broodless—or near-broodless—treatment window during the winter months. Instead of inserting the strips in the fall and allowing five months of potentially positive or negative effects to impact colonies, the controlled study will explore a mid-winter application, allowing for more precise evaluation of outcomes.

We've got more research and extension project ideas in the works for 2025 that we look forward to sharing with you soon.

News

We're hosting a kickoff Zoom meeting for a new Manitoba Queen Breeders group with the first session tentatively scheduled for February 13th. Everyone is welcome—early participation is key to gauging interest and laying a solid foundation for the group. More details will be shared online soon, but here's the draft agenda:

- i) Review of the previous MQBA
- ii) Presentation of KRTP data on selective breeding and field observations

iii) Presentation by Dr. Nuria Morfin on honey bee mechanisms of resistance and her involvement in selective breeding and genetics.

iv) Discussion of this group's objectives and organizational structure

The KRTP is working with the MBA to revamp their website including adding a dedicated KRTP section. This is still a work in progress, but we're aiming to have it up and running with most features by mid-February. Once live, we plan to launch a monthly blog to keep the community updated on our past and current projects, offer easy access to resources, and more. In the meantime, follow us on social media for updates and announcements.

Social media:

Instagram – @krtpmb Facebook – @ KRTP - Manitoba Knowledge & Research Transfer Program

Matthew Polinsky Program Lead <u>krtpmb@gmail.com</u>







| | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY | 20 st |
|---|--------------------|--|
| 7:00pm - 9:00pm Evening Buzzwords: Beekeepers | | Evening Buzzwords: Beekeepers in Dialogue |
| M | | MBA board committee reports, U.S. risk assessment update |

| FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21 st | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 7:30 - 8:00 | Registration Opens | |
| 8:00 - 8:15 | Welcome Remarks MBA Chair Ian Steppler | |
| 8:15 – 8:45 | Canadian Honey Council Update Rod Scarlett | |
| 8:45 – 9:45 | Toxic Chemical Interactions in Our Colonies Bob Binnie | |
| 9:45 - 10:15 | Break | |
| 10:15 - 10:45 | Bees Under Pressure: Understanding the impacts of stressors on bees and working for a resilient future I Dr. Nuria Morfin | |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | Are queens susceptible to virus infections? Yes, and this may be causing them to fail (Part 1) Dr. Alison McAfee | |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | Beekeepers & Pesticide Regulations Health Canada: Marcie Schultz and Marnie Burr | |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | MBA AGM Chair Report, Call for Nominations | |

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

| 1:00 - 1:30 | Provincial Apiarist Update Derek Micholson | |
|-------------|---|--|
| | | |
| 1:30 – 2:15 | AgriStability | |
| | | |
| 2:15 – 2:45 | Chart Your Beekeeping Future Dani Glennie | |
| | | |
| 2:45 – 3:00 | Break | |
| 3:00 - 5:00 | MBA AGM: Resolutions, Financials, Director Voting | |
| 5:00 | AGM Adjournment | |
| 5:30 | Cash Bar | |
| 6:00 | Banquet – Guest Speaker TBA | |

| SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 nd | | |
|---|---|--|
| 7:30 - 8:15 | Registration | |
| 8:15 - 9:00 | KRTP – Knowledge & Research Transfer Program Update | |
| | Matthew Polinsky | |
| 9:00 – 10:00 Processing Honey: A Closer Look Bob Binnie | | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 Break | | |

| 10:30 | | Are queens susceptible to virus infections? Yes, and this ma be causing them to fail (Part 2) Dr. Alison McAfee | |
|---------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 11:00 | - 11:30 | The Circle of Life: A Queen Raising Journey Dani Glennie | |
| 11:30 | - 12:00 | Fieldwatch | |
| 12:00 - | - 1:00 L | UNCH | |
| 1:00 - | -2:00 | Bee Health: Untangling the factors impacting Bees | |
| | | | |
| | | Diana Cox-Foster and Kelsey Graham | |
| 2:00 - | | Diana Cox-Foster and Kelsey Graham Bee-Ware of Varroa: Tackling the destruction and buzzing | |
| 2:00 - | - 2:30 | | |
| 2:00 - | - 2:30 | Bee-Ware of Varroa: Tackling the destruction and buzzing | |
| 7 | - 2:30 - 2:45 | Bee-Ware of Varroa: Tackling the destruction and buzzing towards solutions 1 Dr. Nuria Morfin | |
| 2:30 - | - 2:30 - 2:45 - 3:30 | Bee-Ware of Varroa: Tackling the destruction and buzzing towards solutions Dr. Nuria Morfin Break | |



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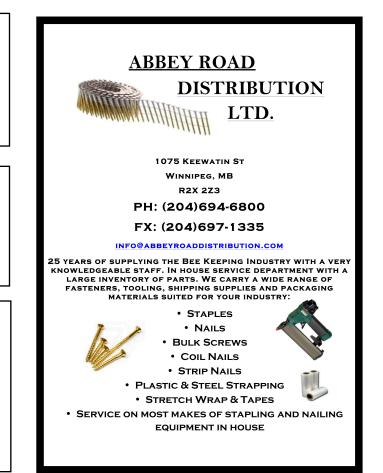
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KRTP Lead:

Matthew Polinsky 545 University Crescent Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5S6 T 204 698 7399 <u>krtpmb@gmail.com</u>

MBA COMMITTEES 2024

Convention/AGM : Ian Steppler, Brad Hogg, Laura Wiens, Derek Micholson, Tom Lockhart, Sheldon Reimer, Michael Clark and Matthew Polinsky

Resolution : Osee Podolsky, Brad Hogg,

Finance and BFMF: Ian Steppler, Paul Gregory and Nadine Lecocq (Treasurer)

CHC Director: Osee Podolsky

Stock Replacement: Tom Lockhart, Mike Grysiuk

Labour: Paul Gregory, Mike Grysiuk

Workplace Safety & Transportation: Sheldon Reimer, Osee Podolsky

KAP Delegate: Micheal Clark

Membership Resources & Communication : Ian Steppler, Bradd Hogg, Paul Gregory, Matthew Polinsky

Pest & Pest Management : Paul Gregory, Tom Lockhart, Derek Micholson

Research Chair : Sheldon Reimer, Matthew Polinsky, Ian Steppler, Osee Podolsky, Derek Micholson

Safety Nets: Paul Gregory Osee Podolsky

Pollinator Habitat & Sustainable Initiatives: Paul Gregory Micheal Clark, Brad Hogg, Ian Steppler, Derek Micholson

Board Development : Ian Steppler, Paul Gregory

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| MAILING ADDRESS | POSTAI | CODE |
| TELEPHONE | EMAIL ADDRESS | |
| NUMBER OF COLONIES EXPECTED TO BE | OPERATED IN 2025 If 50 or more | colonies, please complete page 2. |

Payment Due January 1, 2025 with Deadline for membership payment - March 31, 2025

<u>MEMBERSHIPS</u>

1. Associate Membership (A Volunteer, non-voting category, for beekeepers with 49 or fewer honey bee colonies in Manitoba, or a local or out-of-province industry supporter)

\$60.00

2. **Full Membership** (A Producer who keeps 50 or more honey bee colonies in Manitoba, and who is a sole proprietor, or is the Designated Representative of a partnership, corporation, or Hutterite colony)

| Base Fee | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Levy (50 to 1500 colonies) | Colony number | @0.50 per colony | |
| Additional Levy (1501 or more colonies) | Colony number (Total minus 1500) | @0.16 per colony | |
| TOTAL (Base Fee plus Levy plus Addition | al Levy) | | |

3. INSTITUTION – A Non-Canadian individual, organization, or entity, serving as a broker or library, requesting the MBA newsletter for reference material or other use. \$100.00US

BEE RESEARCH FUNDS-DONATIONS

| BARRY FINGLER MEMORIAL FUND (Manitoba Beekeepers' Association) | |
|--|--|
| CANADIAN BEE RESEARCH FUND (Canadian Honey Council) | |
| KNOWLEDGE RESEARCH TRANSFER PROGRAM (cash or in-kind donation, please contact Secretary) | |

<u>INSURANCE (see MBA website Bees-Protection for details) Not available after March 31</u>

BEEKEEPERS LIABILITY INSURANCE (valid 5 May 2025-5 May 2026) @ \$70.20 per year

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - (THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO MBA MEMBERS ONLY) Not available after March 31

| AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL | - \$67.00 per year | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| BEE CULTURE | - \$92.00 per year | |

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Manitoba Beekeepers' Association

Designated Representative Voting Form – <u>Complete only if you have not completed this before.</u>

| 1. Business Name of Registered Produc | cer: | |
|--|--|---|
| 2. Name of Registered Producer: | (Business name used on original Registra | tion form) |
| | (Name of person completing this form) | |
| Business Number: | Manitoba Agriculture Registration | on Number: |
| The Registered Producer of a Partnersh representative to have voting representa representative must be at least 18 years | ation in the Manitoba Beekeepers' Ass | |
| 3. Name of Designated Representative: | | |
| Postal Code: En | agil: | · |
| Address: En Postal Code: En Phone #: _(204) | FAX: _(204) | |
| 4. Confirmation of eligibility of person Designated Representative's Type of B | appointed above as Designated Repre | esentative: |
| | □ Sole Proprietor: | |
| hold at least 10% of the assets of the pa Does the person to be designated so qu | rtnership and be entitled to 10% of the | le, a designated representative must e income of that partnership. |
| To be eligible, a designated representat the person to be designated so qualify? | | ng shares in the corporation. Does |
| | □ Hutterite Colony: | |
| To be eligible, a designated representat Does the person to be designated so qua | | Colony. |
| 5. Is the person to be designated, the de (If "yes", to be eligible, a re | signated representative of any other re equest to rescind that designation mus | |
| 6. Is the person to be designated also a appointed as the designated representa rescind t | | If "yes", to be eligible, a request to |
| 7. I hereby affirm that the above inform | nation is correct to the best of my know | wledge. |
| Signature: | Date: | |
| (Signature of Registered Pr | Date: oducer completing this form) | (Date form completed) |
| 8. Date Designated Rep. Form received | l: | |
| | his completed application together with p Manitoba Beekeepers' Association PO Box 48123 Lakewood PO Winnipeg, MB, R2J 4A3 | ayment to: |



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