

5

hot water, and the plastic comb foundation sterilized and recoated with clean beeswax, and the brood frames reinserted into the brood compartment or the hive body of the beehive to enable the bees to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the beehive, thereby a more healthful environment for the bees. The present plastic comb foundation may be used season after season, and when aging of the brood comb in the frames so indicate, the process of repeating the aforementioned cleaning and re-coating process may be carried out, and the use of the plastic comb foundation repeated.

Having thus clearly shown and described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A honeycomb foundation to be used within a beehive which honeycomb foundation comprises an elongated sheet of plastic material, which sheet of plastic material has hexagonal indentures complementally arranged on opposite sides thereof, the upper portion of said plastic sheet being thickened to form a wedge-shaped edge, with the wider portion of said wedge-shaped edge being the upper exterior edge of said sheet, said plastic sheet being of a size to cover a predetermined area in the beehive which the honeycomb is to occupy, an elongated strip of yieldable material having a wedge-shaped groove formed therein, which groove is complementary to said wedge-shaped portion of said plastic sheet and being engageable therewith, a frame of a size complementary to said plastic sheet, means securing said elongated strip of yieldable material to a side of said frame, means attachably securing said plastic sheet with said strip of elongated material in said frame, and means forming a coating over opposite faces of said plastic sheet, which coating material is conducive to bees building honeycomb cells thereupon.

2. In combination a foundation for honeycomb for use within a beehive, a rectangular frame, an elongated strip within the inner upper portion of said frame, which strip has a longitudinal, dovetailed groove extending medially thereof, a rectangular plastic sheet having a wedge-shaped edge thereon, which wedge-shaped edge is complementary to and received by said dovetailed groove in said strip, said plastic sheet having hexagonal recesses formed in side-by-side relation over each face thereof, with the recesses on one face being in off-set relation to the recesses on the opposite face so the wall of said recesses on one side will be coextensive with the walls of the recesses on the opposite side, the opposite side of said frame

6

having a slot formed therethrough, said rectangular plastic sheet having plane marginal surfaces on the opposite sides thereof from said wedge-shaped edge with said plane marginal surfaces extending into said slot within said frame, and means coating the faces of said plastic sheet with a substance conducive to the bees to join honeycomb to said coating material on said sheet.

3. A honeycomb foundation to be used in a beehive, which honeycomb foundation comprises an elongated sheet of plastic material which has hexagonal indentures complementally arranged on opposite sides thereof, the upper portion of said plastic sheet being thickened to form a wedge-shaped edge, with the wider portion of said wedge-shaped edge being the upper edge of said sheets, a comb support frame, a unitary strip having an elongated complementary groove formed therein secured to the upper inner side of said frame to receive said wedge-shaped edge of said plastic sheet, said plastic sheet being of a size to cover a predetermined area in the beehive which the honeycomb is to occupy, the opposite edge of said elongated sheet of plastic material having plane marginal surfaces on opposite sides for a spaced distance upward from the edge thereof, said wedge-shaped upper edge and said plane marginal surfaces on opposite edge of said elongated sheet being adapted to fit within said frame to define a surface upon which honeycomb is to be built, said honeycomb foundation sheet having the hexagonal indentures therein being of substantially uniform thickness between the upper wedge-shaped edge and the lower plane marginal surfaces, means securing said sheet of plastic material against lateral movement within said frame, and means forming a coating, over opposite faces of said plastic sheet, of material which is conducive to bees building honeycomb cells thereupon.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

481,578	Mason	Aug. 30, 1892
994,559	Aspinwall	June 9, 1911
2,561,147	Smith	July 17, 1951

FOREIGN PATENTS

7,511	Great Britain	1893
9,563	Great Britain	1901
2,870	Great Britain	1911
616,718	Great Britain	Jan. 26, 1949
145,502	Australia	Feb. 29, 1952