

Table S2. Scale for grading the severity of AFB clinical symptoms.

Scale	Clinical symptoms
0	No AFB clinical symptoms
1	Low level of scattered/patchy bee brood Low number (1–2 cells per comb) of cell cappings are concave, darkened and/or wet-looking) Some ropy larvae/cell mass of milky to light brown coloration Clinical symptoms are limited to a single comb per colony Colony strength is not affected
2	Scattered/patchy bee brood is clearly visible Bee larvae on individual combs vary in age Some cell cappings are concave, darkened and/or wet-looking Up to five perforated cell cappings per comb Ropy larvae/cell mass of light to dark brown coloration Up to three affected combs per colony Colony strength is slightly decreased
3	High level of scattered/patchy bee brood Bee larvae on individual combs vary in age A lot of cell cappings are concave, darkened and/or wet-looking More than five perforated cell cappings per comb Ropy larvae/cell mass of light to dark brown coloration Clinical symptoms are present in more than three combs per colony Colony strength is considerably decreased
4*	Only few remaining capped cells on combs Most cell cappings are perforated Ropy larvae/cell mass of dark brown coloration Dried-out larvae form a hard scale, that adheres to the cell wall (tongue appearance) Colony strength is highly decreased or there are only a few remaining bees in the hive Colony is robbed

*One honeybee colony was scaled '4' and was interpreted here as '3' for the purpose of statistical analysis.