

Evidence Proforma
Food Authenticity Centres of Expertise

Minerva Scientific Ltd

What is your organisations particular area(s) of expertise in food authenticity testing?
Honey Authenticity & Adulteration
Please highlight your organisations key skills and capabilities in this area and provide a justification as to why you feel it should be regarded as a Centre of Expertise? In particular you should focus on highlighting your key analytical skills and capabilities and any accreditation and how you ensure fitness for purpose testing. (250 words max)
<p>Minerva Scientific is recognised as a leading authority on honey testing with over a decade of experience in the field. We provide a range of honey specific relevant ISO17025 UKAS accredited testing and consultancy services to the industry worldwide.</p> <p>Such tests include detection of potential C4 sugar addition by SCIRA, analysis of sugar profile, determination of hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) and diastase activity. We also have many years of experience in the testing of 'active' honeys, and in particular the verification of New Zealand Manuka honey as authentic and meeting activity claims. We are able to offer ISO17025 accredited MGO and DHA testing as part of these services.</p>
Briefly highlight your experience in method validation, data interpretation and evaluation and the reporting of analytical results? (150 words max)
<p>Minerva Scientific is an independent specialist analytical testing laboratory established in 2002. We hold UKAS ISO17025 accreditation for a wide range of analytical tests for honey including tests for authenticity assessment and trace contaminants. We also possess 'flexible scope' accreditation for a range of analytical techniques in food and feed matrices including honey. Furthermore, we also have MHRA GMP approval for the chemical testing of pharmaceutical and veterinary products.</p> <p>As part of the ongoing demands of our business and associated Quality System, method validation, data interpretation and evaluation, and the reporting of analytical results all form essential, business-critical requirements of our day-to-day operations.</p>
Please provide brief details where possible, of your experience in dealing with complex technical authenticity challenges and evidence of your ability to provide solutions. (150 words max)
Minerva has provided specialist consultancy and advice to the UK honey industry on

wide ranging issues including authenticity and adulteration for over a decade. We are currently heavily involved in work relating to additional novel adulteration testing approaches for honey.

Are you willing to provide advice on your areas of expertise and assist others through partnership working and sharing of information? Outline briefly your experience in collaborative working and how you could contribute to enhancing the UKs standing in the field of authenticity testing. (150 words max)

Yes, we are willing to provide advice on our areas of expertise and assist others through partnership working and sharing of information.

One of our company directors, Dr David Hoyland, has over 25 years' experience in the field of authenticity and adulteration issues, over which time he has collaborated on many complex issues including fruit juice, coffee, honey and flavours authenticity. Dr Hoyland has previously been Chairman of the Campden BRI Authenticity Working Group and a member of the FDF Contaminants & Adulteration Working Group. Minerva has worked in conjunction with New Zealand based scientist to develop and validate methods for Manuka Honey and other 'active honey' authenticity assessment.

Please prove a brief statement of your capabilities to be included on the virtual food authenticity network portal (50 words max)

Minerva Scientific is a UK based contract laboratory recognised as a leading authority on honey testing and related consultancy. We provide a range of ISO17025 UKAS accredited testing services to the industry worldwide.

We also offer testing for 'active' honeys including verification tests for New Zealand Manuka honey.