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Remarks:

- The complete document including Reference Tables and the Sequence Listing can be downloaded from the EPO website
- This application was filed on 21-02-2013 as a divisional application to the application mentioned under INID code 62.

(54) **Method for conferring tolerance to viral disease in social insects**

(57) The present invention relates to a method for increasing the tolerance of a honeybee to a disease caused by a bee pathogen, comprising feeding the bee an effective amount of a bee-ingestible composition comprising an isolated double stranded ribonucleic acid (dsR-

NA) comprising an RNA sequence complementary to a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that is highly homologous to a nucleotide sequence of at least one bee pathogen, thereby increasing the tolerance of the honeybee to the disease.

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