



**Special issue in open-access journal**

## **Deliverable D11.8**

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Author(s)

*Nikol Yovcheva  
Teodor Metodiev*

**PoshBee**

**Pan-european assessment, monitoring, and mitigation  
of stressors on the health of bees**



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 Project coordinator: Professor Mark Brown  
 Royal Holloway, University of London  
[www.poshbee.eu](http://www.poshbee.eu)

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## Preface

Dissemination and communication play a vital role within PoshBee as a means of ensuring knowledge transfer and uptake of results at every stage of the project's development. To support this uptake, WP11 utilised a wide range of communication and dissemination tools aimed to reach diverse target groups, delivering efficient messages tailored to their specific interests. Among the project's main target groups are scientists addressing the effects of agrochemicals on bees. In order to produce a concise and targeted output answering their needs, PoshBee set out to publish a special issue with project results in an open access journal. Due to a number of identified shortcomings in relation to special issues and after a discussion with the Project Management Group, it was agreed that instead of a special issue in an open access journal, PoshBee will establish an open access project collection in the journal Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO). Deliverable D11.8 describes the rationale, setting up and implementation of this PoshBee output.

## Summary

As part of Task 11.3 to actively disseminate PoshBee's results to stakeholders and in order to ensure that the project's results are easily accessible in one single point of access, the project created a topical collection in the open access journal [Research Ideas and Outcomes \(RIO\)](#). RIO is an innovative journal aiming to increase the transparency, trustworthiness and efficiency of the entire research ecosystem by publishing ideas, proposals and various other less traditional research outcomes in a comprehensive manner.

A unique feature of the journal is that it allows the creation of topical collections including both traditional research outcomes (research or review articles) and also non-conventional ones (research ideas, grant proposals, project deliverables, workshop reports, policy briefs, data or software descriptions). Moreover, RIO features existing publications in the open science collection by only displaying their metadata and the link to the original repository, thereby causing no copyright issues. This allows PoshBee to illustrate the different aspects of its research development in a comprehensive manner, starting with the conceptualisation (the grant proposal), illustrating progress made (project reports) and disseminating final results (research papers).

As of May 2023, the project's RIO collection features **42 pieces of research knowledge**, including research papers, data papers, project reports and PoshBee's grant agreement. The collection will continue to be updated with new pieces of knowledge as they become available. Hosted in a recognised journal, it thus ensures the accessibility and sustainability of the project's results long after its lifetime.

## 1. Introduction

PoshBee aimed to cater to the needs of scientists studying the impact of agrochemicals on bees by publishing a targeted output of project results in the form of a special issue in an open access journal. Such a publication would benefit stakeholders since it presents the opportunity to review a specific topic, explore new research areas, suggest and foster novel methods, share viewpoints and stimulate fresh avenues of investigation. It also provides a unified source of information with multiple articles related to a particular topic, enabling interested parties to obtain a thorough understanding of the subject.

Publishing a special issue, however, also holds a set of shortcomings. The first is that it captures only a specific moment of the project's development, inevitably excluding a significant part of PoshBee's previous and/or future results. This shortcoming is particularly important in the context of PoshBee, since the project is highly interconnected with results from different project periods, building on each other successively. Another limitation is that the majority of journals publishing special issues only accept traditional research outputs, such as research papers, excluding methods, protocols and workflows, which are an important aspect of PoshBee's work.

In light of that, it was concluded beneficial to seek a similar tool to comprehensively present research knowledge, with the additional benefit to continuously update the output with new findings of different types, including less traditional research outcomes, such as project reports. After a discussion with the Project Management Group, it was agreed that instead of a special issue in an open access journal, PoshBee will establish an open access project collection in the journal Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO). Such a collection was estimated as potentially more powerful in disseminating PoshBee research outputs to scientists due largely to its continued and ongoing existence, as opposed to the snapshot in time provided by a traditional special issue. This tool created in WP11 provides a stable scientific record with a dedicated project DOI number, ensuring sustainability and findability after the expiration of PoshBee.

## 2. PoshBee Project Outcomes Collection

### 2.1. Setup

PoshBee's collection in the journal Research Ideas and Outcomes was opened in 2021, with doi: 10.3897/rio.coll.91. The collection – titled “PoshBee Project Outcomes” – is edited by the project coordinator, project manager and work package leaders:

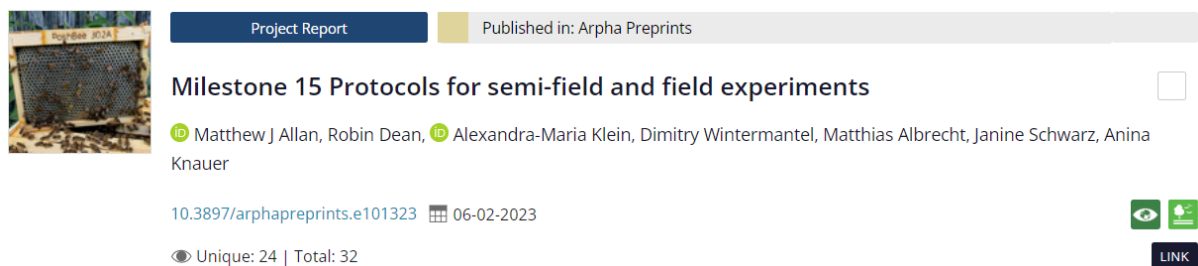
- Mark Brown (PoshBee coordinator);
- Gail Turney (PoshBee project manager);
- Jane Stout (WP1 leader);
- Marie-Pierre Chauzat (WP2 leader);
- Marika Mand (WP3 leader);
- Robert Paxton (WP4 leader);
- Denis Michez (WP5 leader);
- Peter Neumann (WP6 leader);
- Alexandra Klein (WP7 leader);
- Francesco Nazzi (WP8 leader);
- Philippe Bulet (WP9 leader);
- Simon Potts (WP10 leader);
- Teodor Metodiev (WP11 leader).

Documents can be added to the collection in three ways. First, by linking outputs already published elsewhere via their metadata. The collection only displays their title, authors, publication date and doi number, with a link to the original publication venue (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Research article published in the journal Royal Society Open Science linked to PoshBee’s RIO collection via its metadata.

Second, by publishing less traditional research outputs as preprints in ARPHA Preprints and linking them via their metadata to PoshBee’s RIO collection (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** PoshBee’s Milestone 15 published as a preprint and displayed in PoshBee’s RIO collection.

Third, by submitting a manuscript directly to the journal Research Ideas and Outcomes and featuring it as part of the topical collection. As of May 2023, PoshBee has not explored this publication model.

In all three cases, in order for a research output to be featured in the collection, it has to be approved by one of the collection’s editors.

## 2.2. Content

In order to provide the scientific community with the context behind the project’s collection and results, the first featured publication was the abridged version of PoshBee’s Grant Proposal. It was published in August 2021 as a preprint in ARPHA Preprints, with doi: 10.3897/arphapreprints.e72231.

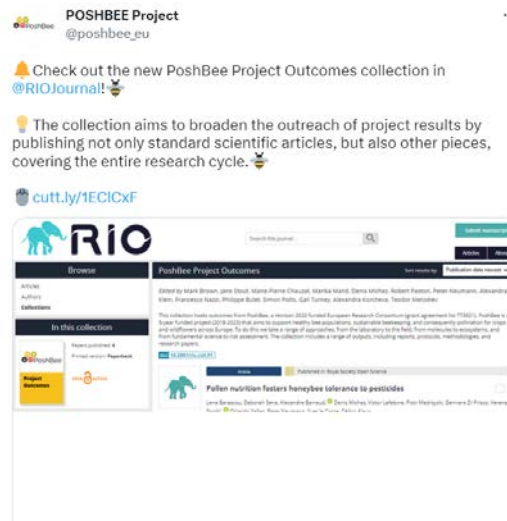
To ensure that the collection illustrates PoshBee’s results in the most comprehensive manner possible, the authors of all publications funded by the project were approached with a request to have their publications linked via metadata to the collection. As of May 2023, 39 research papers and 1 data paper have been linked to the collection.

In addition, PoshBee’s *Milestone 15 Protocols for semi-field and field experiments* was also published as a preprint and linked to the collection. It contains PoshBee’s set of protocols for use in investigating the impacts of multiple stressors on different types of bees in semi-field and field situations, thus helping researchers plan similar experiments in the future.

Lastly, once the project’s policy briefs are available, WP11 will explore their potential publication in the collection. This would ensure that PoshBee’s research-based policy recommendations are easily findable via a doi number, as well as citable for future developments in the field, ensuring their legacy.

### 2.3. Promotion

To raise awareness and maximise the benefits resulting from PoshBee's topical collection in the journal Research Ideas and Outcomes, a series of promotional and dissemination tools were used. First, a news item was published on the project's website, announcing the launch of the collection. It was further distributed via PoshBee's social media channels (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Tweet announcing the project's RIO collection.

Additional news items and social media posts were made when significant updates were made to the collection, such as the publication of Milestone 15 (Figure 4).

#### New addition to PoshBee's RIO Journal collection: Protocols for semi-field and field experiments

07.02.2023

PoshBee's open access collection in the Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO) journal continues to grow, with its latest publication being the project's *Milestone 15: Protocols for semi-field and field experiments*.



**Figure 4.** News item announcing the publication of PoshBee's Milestone 15.

Additionally, the fourth issue of PoshBee's annual newsletter included a feature promoting the project's RIO collection (Figure 5). The issue was further disseminated via PoshBee's website and social media channels.

PoshBee launched a collection in Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO)

In an effort to increase the project's visibility and improve the dissemination of all publicly available project outputs, PoshBee launched an open research collection in the [Research Ideas and Outcomes \(RIO\) journal](#).

The collection will host a wide range of project outputs, including reports, protocols, methodologies, research papers and more, and it will also link publications in other journals. This collection thus allows the centralisation of project outputs and assures their availability throughout and beyond the project's lifetime.

Read more

Figure 5. Feature in PoshBee's fourth annual newsletter disseminating the project's RIO collection.

### 3. Conclusion

To ensure that PoshBee's main results are accessible to one of its main target groups – scientists – the project launched an open access topical collection in the journal Research Ideas and Outcomes. RIO promotes transparency, trustworthiness, and efficiency in research by hosting comprehensive topical collections with project results, including unconventional research outcomes, such as reports and grant proposals. Therefore, this collection allows the centralisation of project outputs and assures their availability beyond PoshBee's lifetime.

The RIO collection is called "PoshBee Project Outcomes" and it currently contains the project's grant proposal, as well as 40 linked papers and a project milestone. The collection will continue to be updated as new results become available.

Additionally, to raise awareness and maximise the benefits resulting from the collection, a combination of promotional and dissemination tools has been used, including news announcements, promotion on social media channels and PoshBee's newsletter.