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SOCIETY

Gironde: its system for getting rid of hornet nests won the gold medal at the Lépine competition

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It is a long telescopic pole of 600 g, connected to a household or work vacuum cleaner, by which eight sharp elements cut the hornets sucked in at the entrance to the nest, without stirring up the colony. "A stupid but brilliant invention, I was told at the Lépine competition! smiles Manuel Augusto, 2023 gold medalist of the prestigious competition.

It had been ten years since the Gironde, an employee of a metallurgy company near Bordeaux, had developed a system "with PVC tubes and sharp elements" to eliminate the hornets that had settled under his roof. "I wanted to intervene by staying at a distance to avoid the bite and without using insecticides, because the dead hornet larvae are eaten by the bird, which is eaten in turn.

Save the bees by eliminating hornet nests

He took advantage of the confinement to refine his perch, guided by the desire "to save lives", because each year, around ten allergic people die after being bitten.

For Manuel Augusto, the patented pole also saves the bees, which constitute the main food of the asian hornet which contributes to their decline. While the Asian hornet was first observed in Lot et Garonne in 2004, this invention is a response to the expansion of this invasive insect.

The solution developed in the neighboring department is intended for pest professionals as well as individuals, "so that they can intervene quickly, when the nest is still small". The industrialization of BeeZen, "if possible in France" will begin within a month or two, pending its distribution in garden centers at a price of 119 euros.

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Tags: competition, Gironde, gold, hornet, Lépine, medal, nests, rid, system, won

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