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The independent UK pest management magazine

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Issue 3 - May & June 2009

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six times a year



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As the industry's only independent
magazine, **Pest** aims to deliver a mix
of unbiased news, impartial advice
and topical technical features. We are
committed to being as inclusive as
possible covering every sector of the
pest management industry.

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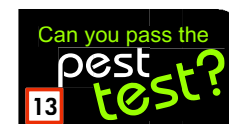
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Pest is published by Foxhill Publishing Limited
Registered in England No: 6737319
Printed by PPS Print, www.pps-print.com

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Time flies

It's time for Issue 3 already. We're certainly finding plenty to report. In fact our biggest problem is fitting it all in, so don't forget, keep an eye on the website where we have the space to post more in-depth news and, of course, we can publish it as it comes into the **Pest** office.

We are very pleased to report that reading **Pest** now qualifies for two BASIS PROMPT CPD points. If you are not yet a member of PROMPT then take a look at our feature on pages 8 & 9 to find out more about how to prove that you are at the top of your profession. As you may have guessed from our front cover, one of our main technical features in this issue is fly control. We've used this feature to introduce a new initiative – what we're calling the **Pest Test**. By passing the **Pest Test** and answering all the questions on page 13 correctly, more CPD points are up for grabs.

Anyone with an interest in rodenticide resistance shouldn't miss the feature on pages 16 & 17. If you are in any doubt about the rodents in your patch, why not get one resistance tested. Send your rat's tails to Huddersfield University and not to us please! Enjoy the read!

Frances McKim

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WWW

Westminster Aiming High

Winners of the Aiming High in Pest Control initiative, run in partnership with BPCA, were presented during PestEx.

Starbucks in Wardour Street won the category for national chains, whereas the Young Cheng Chinese restaurant in Lisle Street took the small to medium sized establishment award.

Mitie Pest Control was the pest control partner for Starbucks, whereas Pest Alert took care of the Young Cheng restaurant.



Left: Lenard Murrill of Pest Alert receives his award from Richard Block (right), operations manager for food, health and safety at Westminster City Council.
Right: Mitie's Andrew Duff (left) and Matthew Hughes accept their award.

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Inspirational meeting

At the second national UK Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM) meeting held during PestEx, the group was delighted to greet Judy Dold from Rose Pest Solutions in the USA. Judy (right) gave a motivating talk to the group which was chaired by Sabra Fearon from Killgerm.



Mitie's green credentials

On 1 May, Mitie supported The Prince's May Day Summit on Climate Change held at Billingsgate market in London. Based in traditional market stalls, Mitie featured three of its environmentally friendly initiatives on its stand: the increased use of LPG vans and mapping technology; natural predators and paperless reporting. Prince Charles toured the stands and showed particular interest in Peter Trotman's Harris hawk and in the use of terriers for rat control.

International bedbug summits

Two international events demonstrated the worldwide problems with bedbugs – the topics discussed were identical to those debated in the UK. The National Bedbug Summit was held in the USA, 14-15 April, whilst in Australia on 7 May there was a one-day training workshop at Westmead Hospital in Sydney. Reports on both events can be found on the **Pest** website.

Bell wins environment award

Bell Laboratories in the USA has been honoured with a 2009 Wisconsin Business Friend of the Environment Award for its leadership in environmental stewardship. Bell was singled out for its participation in the Aleutian Seabird Restoration Project on Rat Island in the Alaskan Aleutian Island chain. The company developed a unique brodifacoum bait, capable of being aerially applied, which researchers are using to rid Rat Island of non-native Norway rats that have been ravaging the seabird population.

Academy refresher

On 5 April pest control managers attended a one-day refresher seminar following the successful Pest Controllers Academy originally held on 6 & 7 October 2008, sponsored by Killgerm and Sorex.

Star of the show, for the most visible change implemented, was Rickie Browning of Bournemouth-based Prevent Pest Control. Rickie had taken to heart the message of clear and strong branding – since last



October he had rebranded his business, updated his website and clearly visible for all to see was his shiny new van strategically placed outside the main entrance. Well done Rickie!

A Westminster wish list



NPTA's Barrie Sheard and Peter Crowden

On 13 May, the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) accepted their invitation to meet the Rt. Hon. Jane Kennedy MP, the Minister for the Environment accompanied by her senior civil servants. The meeting was due to have occurred one month earlier, but illness on behalf of the Minister led to rescheduling. At the meeting held at Defra's main office in Smith Square, the Minister was keen to learn more about the National

Rodent Survey, why rat numbers are increasing, affects of the fortnightly rubbish collections, rodents in sewers, DIY pest control, and last but no means least, rodenticide resistance.

Quite by coincidence, Oliver Madge from the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) met the Shadow Minister for Health on 5 May and discussed a similar range of issues.

New executive board elected at BPCA

At the BPCA Annual General meeting, held during PestEx, Martina Flynn from BASF Pest Control Solutions was elected as president, taking over from Nigel Binns. Henry Mott from Conquer Pest Control becomes deputy president, whilst Ross Graham of Graham Environmental Services takes over as honorary treasurer.

All went smoothly at the meeting except for the issue of the accounts. It was pointed out from the floor that over the last three financial years BPCA has shown an increase of revenue of 3% yet an increase in costs of 45%. This has caused a reduction in members' funds of £140k. Chief executive officer, Oliver Madge, assured members that these funds had been invested in future developments e.g. on-line learning, which would bear fruit this year. He gave a firm commitment that expenditure would be in line with income for the current financial year.



The new BPCA executive board. Left to right: Nigel Binns, Ross Graham, Martina Flynn and Henry Mott

Other web news

To read the following news items go to www.pestmagazine.co.uk

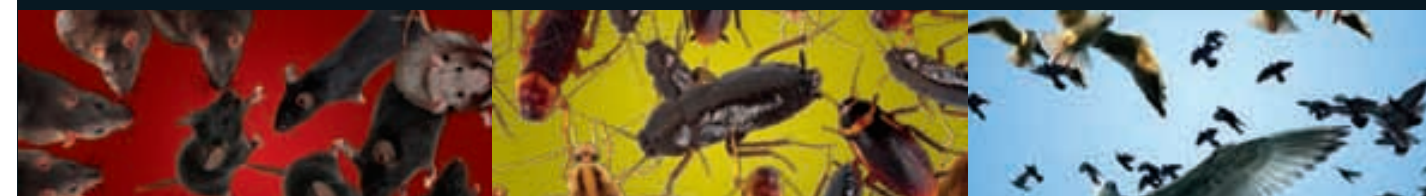
- Stewart Cooper joins Industrial Pesticides
- CRRU launches countryside legal use poster.
- AgriSense awarded Queens Award for Enterprise.
- Plans for integration of Sorex with BASF begin to emerge.
- Quality issues lead to recall of Talunex stock.
- Man found dead – Phostoxin poisoning the likely cause

Hockley scoops top international award



Cheshire-based pesticide manufacturer, Hockley International, scooped a prestigious International Trade Award at the inaugural Chemicals Northwest Awards held at the Hilton Hotel in Manchester on 14 May. Frank Howard (left) received the award from Clive Drinkwater, Regional Director of UKTI.

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Behaviour led control

Interest in malaria exploding

Over one million people die of malaria each year, and most of these are young children under five. Yet this figure is set to rise if drastic action is not put in place to halt these fatal statistics.

The recent international workshop (see page 7) in London addressed the topic of developing new chemicals to fight this disease head-on. Around the same time the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) announced funding for two, three-year pesticide development programmes. These programmes with Syngenta and Bayer Crop Science aim to end the drought of new public health products for malaria control.

Meanwhile the UK government is donating £40m to a new global effort to bring down the price of the combination drugs which are needed to beat the resistance built up by the malaria parasite. GlaxoSmithKline is also running advanced trials which could lead to the world's first malaria vaccine.

Number 10 gets netted

On 20 April 2009, David Beckham, Andy Murray and Denise Lewis, visited Number 10 Downing Street to mark the launch of Malaria No More UK. These sporting heroes have been named as members of the Malaria No More UK Leadership Council.

They will campaign to raise awareness about malaria and start with the simple message that for just £5 a bed net can be bought, transported and delivered to an African family; protecting them from malaria for up to five years. The UK has already delivered 9.3 million nets of the 20 million they pledged last year. The charity is calling on the PM to press other EU and G8 governments to deliver their share of the 100 million bed nets they promised too.

Sporting stars Andy Murray, David Beckham and Denise Lewis with the PM. To mark the launch of Malaria No More UK the famous door at Number 10 was swathed in a malaria net. The charity says its first goal is to help reach the UN target of getting everyone at risk in Africa under a bed net by the end of 2010.



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World regulators gather in London

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) in London played host to over 100 international delegates from 22 countries at the International Public Health Pesticides Workshop (IPHPW).

From 19-21 May 2009, this unique gathering of senior regulators, producers, public health authorities and users came together to face the challenges of vector-borne diseases. Discussions concerning malaria control took centre stage.

In her opening address, Lois Rossi, director of the registration division of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) clearly defined the workshop objective: "Worldwide public health programmes are faced with a depleting arsenal of chemicals. Regulatory control has effectively limited the products available, yet diseases are spreading globally. New initiatives, new funding and new innovations are required. Regulatory authorities around the world are faced with the same problems. Our objective is to promote dialogue between the stakeholders, identify steps forward and to leave the meeting with a strategy and a plan to execute it." A tall order no less.

Historically both pesticide manufacturers and regulators have concentrated their efforts on pesticides destined for agricultural use. Public health uses have been spin-offs from agriculture. International regulatory organisations have evaluated public health products using procedures designed primarily for agricultural products. Many WHO member countries have systems that cover agricultural chemicals, yet have nothing in place for biocides. A startling revelation was that, to date, there has been no insecticide developed for public health which had not yet gone through the agricultural regulatory system first.

From a manufacturer's viewpoint, the low return on investment in developing an active ingredient solely for public health use was revealed in a market survey conducted by Dalberg Global Development Advisors from Switzerland, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. They estimated it took a minimum of ten years and a cost ranging from \$60m to \$200m to produce a product for sale in a market estimated to be worth only \$750m in 2006.

Yet all is not doom and gloom. Vector



From left some of the organisers, Graham Dukes (CIEH), Kathy Aultman (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), Jonathan Peck (Killgerm Group) & Kevin Sweeney (EPA)

control is seen as a growing market – as a result the ingenuity of producers and regulators will find a way forward. As an example, look no further than the Liverpool-based Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC). To date, nearly \$51m has been awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fund IVCC research.

Next steps

To facilitate product development, the workshop confirmed that there was a need for harmonisation of regulatory review processes and data requirements among the different schemes operating internationally.

Going forward, the participants identified the following actions:

- Communicating the content and findings of the workshop, initially by convening a meeting of regulators from developing countries;
- Conducting a test case for global review of new public health pesticide products;
- Initiating discussions with world regulatory authorities and WHO on regulatory review processes and data requirements specific to public health pesticides.

Full details at www.iphpw.org

WWW



The speakers from top: Lois Rossi of EPA, Robert Sloss of IVCC and Richard Davis of the UK's new Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) in York



Be the best and be recognised as the best

There is a way of demonstrating that what you do as a qualified pest technician puts you at the top of your profession. It has been around for several years but only around 400 people have made the grade. So what is it and why haven't more people got involved?

"We're talking about BASIS PROMPT," explains Rob Simpson, managing director of the independent standards setting organisation BASIS. "Quite simply, it is a way of proving to your clients and, for that matter, potential employers that you are up to speed with all the latest developments in pest management," he adds.

To be accepted onto PROMPT you must hold the RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Certificate in Pest Control. To stay on BASIS PROMPT you must show that you keep up with pest control developments by collecting 20 CPD points every year. CPD stands for Continuing Professional Development and it's something that accountants, lawyers and doctors have been doing for very many years (see panel).

So why haven't more people been accepted onto the PROMPT register? Surely it cannot be the fee (around £30) that is payable to

the independent administrators BASIS to allow them to run the scheme. Whether you employ one technician or 100 technicians that amount seems a small price to pay to be sure your staff are up to date. As one industry commentator put it – we're talking less than £30 a head; how much is ignorance costing you in complaints and lost contracts? In addition, for both companies and self-employed technicians having an independently verified means of showing potential customers that you meet the highest industry standards must be helpful to your business.

David Cross is technical director for Igrox: "People say they don't want to pay the fee but I think in many ways they are more concerned that collecting the CPD points will be difficult; taking up significant amounts of service time by having people attend costly seminars and courses. To be fair, the availability of CPD points was something I was worried about when Igrox first got involved with PROMPT a couple of years ago. However over the last 18 months or so I have been pleasantly surprised at just how widely available CPD points are."

Igrox is fully committed to PROMPT and all frontline staff are expected to go on the register once they are qualified.

"From Igrox's perspective we see the £30 as a good investment. It's proof that we're a professional organisation with professional technicians. We're raising the professional bar," continues David. "Having achieved a qualification 10 years ago does not necessarily mean you are qualified to deal with today's pest problems. If you want proof then look no further than the *British Pest Management Manual* where you will find that the pests have changed over the years. For example, the ants we are dealing with now are quite different from 10 years



ago what with all the more exotic species coming in. Pesticide products also change and then there are resistance issues; both behavioural and actual. If you are serious about doing this job you have got to keep up with the changes."

To be realistic however, the step change for PROMPT will probably only come when customers start specifying membership as a condition for tender.

"At the moment it is difficult to give examples of where PROMPT membership has definitely won us contracts or made a difference commercially," confesses David. "However I am anticipating that over the next three to four years the big customers, such as the food industry, will start to specify PROMPT membership. Already the various codes of practice specify BPCA Level 2 qualified staff so it is the next step for them."










Rob Simpson from BASIS stresses the organisation's independence and experience in running similar schemes for other sectors: "Professional Development Schemes like PROMPT always benefit true professionals and their customers," he says. "They provide a verifiable means of demonstrating higher industry standards and in doing so they also help to keep the cowboys out."

"Encouragingly," he continues, "there are signs that customers are beginning to specify PROMPT membership. For example we know some of the big construction companies are turning away pest controllers who do not have a PROMPT ID card and preventing them from entering large construction sites."

To find out more or to apply to join PROMPT visit www.basis-reg.co.uk

What type of event qualifies as CPD?

CPD points can be awarded to many different types of activity and many of these are free:

-  Reading technical manuals and magazines such as **Pest**
-  Reading the **Pest** technical article on EFKs see pages 11-13 and answering the questions correctly
-  Attending trade shows and seminars; for example all the seminars at the recent PestEx event were worth CPD points, as was attending the exhibition itself and there was no charge for any of these.
-  Attending seminars organised by manufacturers and distributors
-  Staff meetings and in-house training events
-  Local Authority pest liaison group meetings
-  Online/distance learning
-  Health & Safety updates
-  Paid for training seminars and conferences

Level 2 in Pest Control to change

The RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Certificate in Pest Control will have to be changed if the qualification is to avoid being reclassified as an Award under the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

QCF is a new way of recognising and accrediting vocational qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Every unit and qualification in the framework is getting a credit value (one credit represents 10 hours of work for the average person). There will also be a level which shows how difficult each unit or qualification is. The problem for the Level 2 Certificate in Pest Control is that it doesn't currently earn enough credits to make the 'certificate' grade. The qualification needs to be extended and the proposal is to do this by adding in a practical element.

Dr Richard Burton, qualifications development manager at Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) explained that the proposal is to ask candidates to submit a log book detailing the practical work they have completed. "This wouldn't be anything complicated, just a record of the jobs they do as part of their normal day to day work over say a five week period and signed off by a tutor or examiner."

Other options, such as sending an examiner out with a candidate, are time consuming and expensive. RSPH would like to hear what you think about the log idea. How could it work in practice? Are there any other ways you can suggest to assess practical experience? Email Richard on rburton@rsph.org.uk or make your views known via BPCA or NPTA.

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Go to our feature on EFKs on pages 11 and 12, brush up on your knowledge by reading the article and then **Take the Pest Test** on page 13.

If you get all the answers correct you will be credited with a further two BASIS PROMPT CPD points.

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Summer time is fly time

Can you pass the **pest test?**

This is the time of year when houseflies (*Musca domestica*), lesser houseflies (*Fannia canicularis*), blowflies (*Calliphora* spp.) and many other species of flies become a great deal more apparent due to the rise in ambient temperature. Their seasonal appearance also provides commercial opportunities for professional pest controllers.

Not only are most species of flies a nuisance, they are also vectors of several diseases and have extremely high rates of reproduction. Many species have exploited habitats created by humans such as commercial kitchens, hospitals, restaurants, and domestic premises in which to spend much of their lives. It is because of this that, in such premises, there is a need to introduce effective methods of fly control.

Flies are insects which exhibit complete metamorphosis in their development. This means that the adult females lay eggs from which develop larvae which having fed, after a number of days/weeks, change into pupae from which the adults emerge. The larval stage in many flies is as long, or longer, than the adult stage. As a result of this effective fly control procedures involve developing strategies for the control of the larvae and the adults.

However, if we concentrate on the control of adult flies – both chemical and physical methods can be used.

Chemical treatments

The use of chemical treatments to control adult fly populations is often of limited use. On certain occasions, when the large numbers of flies have accumulated within a premise then a 'space treatment'

involving filling the atmosphere with insecticide may have to be carried out.

However, in most cases of fly control there is little point in using a large amount of insecticide to kill a few flies.

Chemical treatment, with a contact insecticide, of surfaces upon which flies are landing can often work out to be a sound method for

adult control, but predicting the fly behaviour is often difficult and the adult flies frequently land on untreated surfaces nearby!

Physical methods

Therefore, it is generally more successful to control adult flies using physical methods namely:

- Preventing the entry of the adult flies into premises, primarily with the use of fly screens;
- Trapping the flies either before they enter, or once they have entered, the premises.



© P-L Systems

Fly screens prevent adult flies entering buildings

Fly screens

Fly screens, which are used in such circumstances, have to be fitted accurately and should also be well maintained throughout the time they are in place to ensure their efficacy. It is all too often the case that screens are neglected once they have been installed and they are damaged leading to them being ineffective at preventing flies entering the premises.

Fly trapping

The most common type of trap used in pest control is those which use ultra violet (UV) light to attract the insects. These electronic fly killers (EFK) kill the attracted insects in a high voltage grid. A further, more recent, variation is an EFK with adhesive boards adjacent to the UV tubes, which trap and retain the captured insects.

Both of these types of traps are most successful at attracting a wide range of flying insects and are considered to be the industry

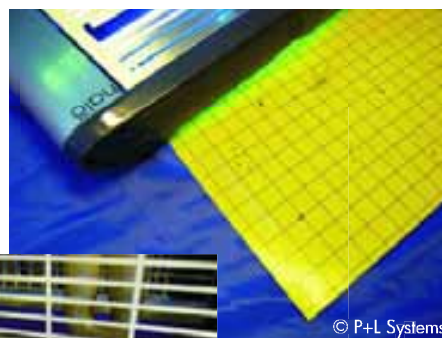


© PestWest

The most common type of fly trap is the electronic fly killer (EFK)

standard for fly control throughout the world.

Whether you employ the traditional unit involving the killing grid, or one with the



Traditional units, left, employ a killing grid. Models with adhesive boards are popular in the food sector

adhesive board, is very much down to the choice of the installer taking into consideration the precise location. Each type of unit has various advantages and disadvantages. Yet within the food industry the units with the adhesive boards are becoming ever more popular, as they prevent small fragments of 'zapped' insects from contaminating produce.

Whichever version of the trap is used, they both utilise the basic biological principle exhibited by flying insects – their ability to detect UV light. For many millions of years flying insects have used the UV rays to navigate by, and almost all insect species have a strong visual response to UV light.

Ultra violet light is naturally occurring emitting from the sun. UV light visible to the human eye falls within the 380-780 nanometre range and is referred to as 'visible light'.

However, UV light which is attractive to insects falls within the 100-400 nanometre range and is invisible to humans. The chart, above right, shows the eye sensitivity for a housefly. There is a clear peak in sensitivity in the 340-380 nanometre range.

In EFK machines, the UV light in the fluorescent tubes used to attract flying insects (which is invisible to humans) is made artificially by passing an electric current through a gas or vapour, such as mercury. A phosphorescent coating on the inside of the tubes

absorbs the UV and converts it to visible light.

However, the phosphors within the fluorescent tubes, which produce the UV light, have a limited life. While the tubes appear to the human eye to be the same colour and look to be 'working', the phosphors in fact deteriorate during their life and when they are around twelve months old they no longer produce light at the UV end of the spectrum and therefore the attractiveness to flying insects diminishes dramatically. It is essential therefore, that the tubes are changed at this time.

Spring or early summer is the ideal time for new tubes to be fitted to fly control units to coincide with the increase in numbers of flying insects. When replacing the tubes it is essential to use efficient new tubes which produce high quality and consistent UV light within the range 340 to 380 nm.

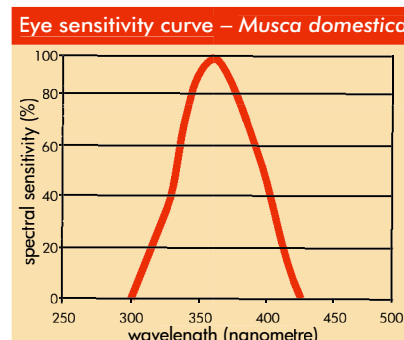
Shatterproof tubes

As well as using high quality tubes, another important aspect relating to the tubes is the need to have the tubes covered with a retaining protective layer which, in the event of them shattering, will prevent any shards of glass being expelled.

It is standard that all tubes have a shatterproof coating when the fly control units are being used within food industry premises.

When replacing the shatterproof UV tubes within the fly control units, it is important to ensure that the new tubes comply with the IEC61549 standard. All tubes, which meet this standard, have a trade mark 'coloured band' around one end. It is advisable to use only such tubes as the banding shows that they are suitable for fly control and are guaranteed to be of high quality.

By replacing the tubes annually with high standard, UV-producing tubes and servicing the fly control units regularly it will ensure that the units perform through the 'fly season' catching flies of many different species and forming part of an effective fly control programme.

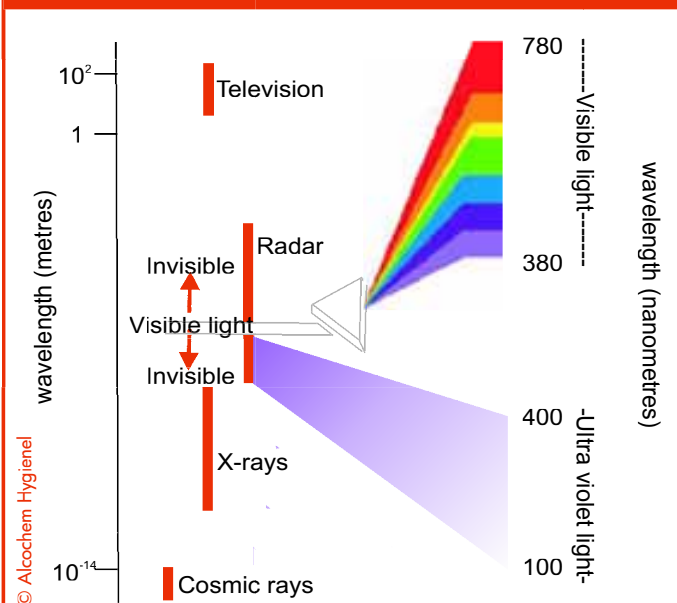


Shatterproof UV tubes have a protective layer to collect glass shards if they break



Replacing tubes regularly ensures units perform at their best

Ultra violet light



Take the Pest test

In this new occasional series BASIS is making two PROMPT CPD points available if you can demonstrate that you have improved your knowledge, understanding and technical know-how by passing the **Pest Test** and answering all our questions correctly. So read through our technical feature on fly control and then complete the questions below.

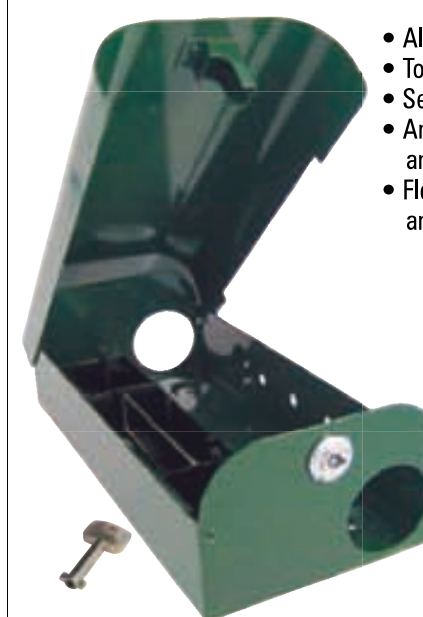
Try to answer them all in one sitting and without referring back to the article. Take care as some questions may have more than one correct answer so **tick all the answers that you believe are correct.** **SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONS** to: **Pest Magazine**, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough Leicestershire LE12 5PZ. We will contact you with your result and if all your answers are correct we will send your details to BASIS who will credit the CPD points to you.

1 Why is it important to control flies in food premises? Is it because flies: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Breed rapidly</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>b) Contaminate food</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Spread disease</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>d) Cause a nuisance</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	a) Breed rapidly	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Contaminate food	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Spread disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Cause a nuisance	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 How can the effectiveness of a fly screen be prolonged? <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Accurate fitting</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>b) Regular inspection and maintenance</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Spray the screen with insecticide</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>d) Replace the screen every year</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	a) Accurate fitting	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Regular inspection and maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Spray the screen with insecticide	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Replace the screen every year	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2 What is the best way to control adult flies? <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Chemical space treatment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>b) Contact insecticide</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Physical controls such as EFKs</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>d) Sonic deterrent devices</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	a) Chemical space treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Contact insecticide	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Physical controls such as EFKs	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Sonic deterrent devices	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 How frequently should fluorescent tubes in EFKs be changed? <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Every three months</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>b) Every three years</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Every six months</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>d) Every year</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	a) Every three months	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Every three years	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Every six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Every year	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3 What is the best UV light range to attract houseflies to an EFK? <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) 100-300 nm</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>b) 340-380 nm</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) 390-500 nm</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>d) 550-780 nm</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	a) 100-300 nm	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) 340-380 nm	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) 390-500 nm	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) 550-780 nm	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Where must you use shatterproof replacement tubes? <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a) Food premises</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>b) Hospitals</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Domestic premises</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>d) Riding stables</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	a) Food premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Domestic premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Riding stables	<input type="checkbox"/>
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What's Darwin got to do with it?

Clive Boase of the Pest Management Consultancy celebrates and re-examines Charles Darwin's life and ideas from a pest control perspective.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of his revolutionary publication *On the origin of species by means of natural selection*. Darwin's voyage on the Beagle, when he famously visited the Galapagos Islands, gave him the material and experience which led to his theory of evolution. In essence, what Darwin proposed was that organisms produce far more offspring than they need to replace themselves. The high mortality in each generation is not random, but allows those individuals that are best adapted to the environment to survive, have offspring and start the next generation. As a result, over time, species gradually adapt (i.e. evolve) to suit their local environment. Species, even humans, are therefore not fixed, but have evolved gradually from predecessors. When he eventually plucked up the courage to publish his theory in 1858, it triggered a controversy that stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Darwin assumed that evolution was an immensely slow process. However by the middle of the twentieth century, it became clear that under some circumstances, evolution could happen over a few years, not several millennia. Not completely new species, but at least new strains with different characteristics, could appear. One of the areas where evolution takes place most rapidly is in our own field of pest control.

Pest control work (usually) causes high mortality among the infestations targeted. Darwin would have said that any survivors of the treatment were not just lucky, but survived because they possessed characteristics that actively helped them. Those few cockroaches could have survived because they had an increased level of an enzyme that breaks down the pesticide in their body, or perhaps the surviving urban mouse had a preference for fatty food-stuffs that helped it avoid cereal baits. Over the course of a few generations, and several treatments, that pest with the formerly rare survival mechanism now makes up the majority of the infestation, and we call it 'resistant'. Evolution in action – exactly what Darwin predicted would happen.

Resistance can be a problem for servicing companies and pesticide manufacturers so is there anything we can do? Is there a rewind button? The answer is no! Resistance management is a complex and fascinating topic. However, modern-day science, as illustrated by the DNA evaluation work available from such places as the University of Huddersfield (see pages 16 & 17), is helping to unlock the resistance story. Darwin would be well impressed.

VIEW
Darwin anniversary



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Rodenticide resistance hots up

At PestEx 2009 there was an entire seminar devoted to rodenticide resistance. Chaired by Adrian Meyer from Acheta, the session painted a worrying picture.

Adrian related the experience of one town in Hampshire where the control of a severe rat infestation was proving totally impossible to achieve. Over the course of 15 months, 210.5 kg of rodenticide bait had been laid with little, or no, effect. With all practical management options explored and the array of available rodenticides exhausted, was this a case of rodenticide resistance?

Up until very recently establishing if a rodent population was resistant or not was both a slow and expensive process. Live rats had to be caught, bred in laboratory conditions and then tested. As a result, wondering if a colony was resistant or not was about as far as pest controllers got.

But all this has recently changed. Researchers in Germany, led by Dr Hans Joachim Pelz made a critical breakthrough. Following the development of new and sophisticated DNA-sequencing technology, they identified which part of the genetic code of rats and mice carried the DNA sequence, or gene, is altered in rodents resistant to anticoagulants. Having established this, it has become possible to look for changes, or mutations, which result in anticoagulant resistance in rodents.

All very interesting – but with your home chemistry set, you are hardly likely to be able to perform these tests for yourself. However, others can. Within the UK there are laboratories willing and able to perform these tests for a modest fee.

Rats from the colony in Hampshire have been tested and resistance clearly established. This fact caused much interest at the seminar. Several questions arose as to how a pest controller can go about organising such a test – what is involved, what do the results look like and show, how much does it cost and who does the tests?

Keen to find this out for our readers, **Pest** editor, Frances McKim,



The team at Huddersfield. Left to right: Professor Rob Smith (Dean of Applied Sciences), Ian Johnson (Senior Technician) and Dr Dougie Clarke (Head of Biological Sciences & Nutrition)

went to visit Professor Rob Smith and his team at the University of Huddersfield, the leading UK test centre, to find out more. What follows, is a pictorial record of what's involved.

Resistance testing – it's all in the genes

Testing a rat for resistance is a scientifically sophisticated exercise. For the purposes of this feature, the science has been kept to a minimum and photographs used to illustrate the procedures involved. It is worth pointing out though, that the procedure used is exactly the same as employed for the diagnosis of human inherited diseases such as cystic fibrosis.

But first – a spot of science The characteristics of all living organisms, including humans, are essentially determined by information contained within DNA that they inherit from their parents. DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is a chemical structure that forms chromosomes. A piece of a chromosome that dictates a particular trait, such as eye colour, is called a gene.

Structurally, DNA is a double helix: two strands of genetic material spiralled around each other. Each strand contains a sequence of bases that consist of one of four chemicals – adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C) and thymine (T).

The molecular structure of DNA can be imagined as a zip (the two strands) with each tooth represented by one of four letters (A, C, G, or T), and with opposite teeth forming one of two pairs, either A-T or G-C.

The information contained in DNA is determined primarily by the

sequence of letters along the zip. For example, the sequence ACGCT represents different information than the sequence AGTCC in the same way that the word "POST" has a different meaning from "STOP" or "POTS," even though they use the same letters.

The traits of a human being are the result of information contained in the DNA code. Living organisms that look different or have

different characteristics also have different DNA sequences. It is this change in DNA sequencing that the rat tests reveal.

The magnitude of this search must not be underestimated – you are looking for a change in one sequence out of 3,000,000,000 – or put another way – a spelling mistake in one word in an entire bible.

So, how is it done?

Any pest controller anxious to test for rodenticide resistance (either rats or mice) first needs to contact the laboratory at Huddersfield, which will send a small vial containing preservative suitable packaged for safe arrival. The pest controller then needs to cut approximately 3-5cm off the tail of the dead rat under investigation. Having recorded their details, the vial containing the rat's tail is returned to Huddersfield.

1 Cut 3-5cm off the dead rat's tail



2 Once in Huddersfield the parcel is unpacked



3 A small section (5mm) is removed from the tail sample. The remainder of the tail is retained for reference



4 The sample is prepared for evaluation, then centrifuged. Here the protein is removed and the DNA released from a purification matrix.



5 Then by using a process called PCR (polymerase chain reaction) cloning, the one gene that harbors the resistance mutations is selectively isolated and multiplied.



6 This is followed by the DNA sequencing that identifies the sequential order of over 3,000 chemicals in this gene.

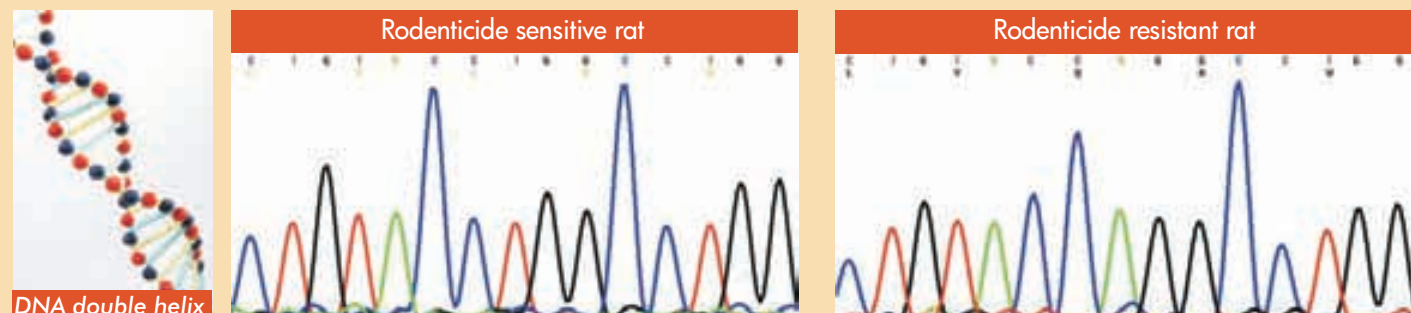


7 Finally, computer analysis compares this sequence with data from known sensitive and resistant rat DNA sequences held in the Huddersfield database. A report detailing the findings and their significance is prepared and sent back to the pest controller.



Can you spot the difference?

The images below show one of the many mutations the Huddersfield researchers have identified in UK resistant rats and mice. Can you spot the difference in the sequence of the coloured peaks? In the middle of the left-hand image the red peak indicates the chemical 'T' is present in a normal sensitive rat whereas at the corresponding position in the right-hand image the green peak indicates the chemical is an 'A' at this position in a resistant rat. It takes just one change in this chemical sequence to result in resistance.



How to arrange for resistance testing of your rats

To take advantage of the service provided by the University of Huddersfield, please contact: Dr Dougie Clarke, Head of Biological Sciences & Nutrition, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield Email: d.j.clarke@hud.ac.uk There is a charge, payable in advance, of £60 per rat's tail. Depending on workload, testing can take anything up to six weeks.

CEPA elects a new president

The European Pest Management Industry Association (CEPA) held its annual General Assembly at ExCeL in London's Docklands on 23 April during PestEx 2009.

After four years at the helm, Robert Stuyt stood down as president. Gunnar Ackerbom from the leading Swedish servicing company, Anticimex, was elected as the new president. He is joined by two vice-presidents – Frédéric Verwilghen (vice president of the Belgium Pest Control Association) and Patrick Vernié (representing the manufacturer's college). Rainer Gsell from the DSV, the German national association, continues as finance officer with Rob Fryatt remaining as director general.



Gunner Ackerbom (centre) CEPA's new president, with Patrick Vernié (right) and Frédéric Verwilghen

Reviewing the year, CEPA director general, Rob Fryatt, reported on what had been another successful and consolidating year. Membership had increased, events had been well attended, the

interface with other industry bodies had strengthened and the standing of CEPA with the European Commission had risen.

Rob said: "CEPA will continue to be open to all applications from the industry – only this way will it be able to be fully representative. The status of foundation members will be maintained, but plans are in place to enable other associations to join either as full or associate members. Likewise, international companies, trainers, consultants, national suppliers are encouraged to join."

Invitation to Japan

CEPA was very pleased to welcome as a guest at the meeting, Junichiro Katayama, the president of FAOPMA, their sister organisation in Asia.

As part of the growing collaboration between CEPA and FAOPMA, Junichiro offered all delegates a warm invitation to attend the forthcoming FAOPMA conference and exhibition to be held in Beijing on 25-27 November 2009.



Rob Fryatt left, welcomes Junichiro Katayama from FAOPMA

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It's a rat race

Pest control in Central London

Fresh from his first visit to PestEx and with his first commercial job under his belt, our new recruit is starting to get his feet under the table.

Hello again, Russell reporting from the rat race. Literally this timeCentral London. But first PestEx. The message from the two seminars I attended is that rats are becoming seriously resistant to poison in some areas and bedbugs are spreading year on year.

So the rats are getting out of control outside and the bugs get you while you sleep! "Oh no, head for the hills!" Now at the risk of appearing a tad cynical, correct me if I'm wrong, but these are seminars at a venue trying to sell pest control products.

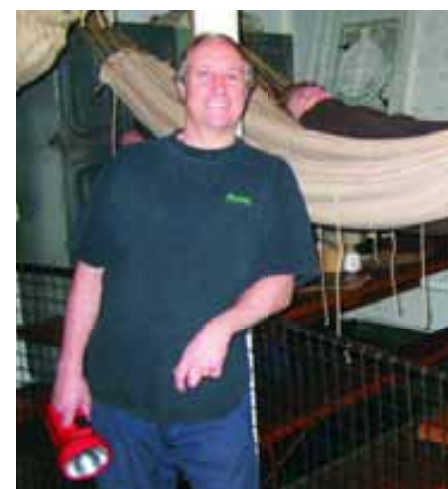
The show had an interesting approach on a couple of stands where carbon dioxide and liquid nitrogen were being used for pest control. I thought these actually had potential, as deposit and poison free.

Blood on the carpet at PestEx

I also attended the BPCA AGM at the end of the first day, The highlight being some blood on the carpet, as accounting figures were challenged from the floor.

Two observations. First: When asking any supplier/lecturer which is the best product for the job the answer is often "whatever you find best." Not much help there.

Second: When using glue boards, I queried



Don't wake the crew! Andy Simpson of Protec on HMS Belfast

the best way to dispatch the rats/mice?... short silence "well you know." It's a bit like your Dad and you at 13 years old discussing the facts of life. "Now son, you trap,... er... attract a girl and then ><*>*** and be careful with the cigarette on the bedspread. We kill things for a living, but it's somehow a taboo subject!!

I met Dave Nubel at PestEx, kindly introduced to me by your editor Frances McKim. Dave runs a company, Protec Pest & Hygiene Services and agreed to allow me to shadow Andy Simpson, one of his guys in London.

This was a very welcome offer and I am very grateful for the opportunity. We visited several five-star establishments including a West End theatre and also HMS Belfast. It was fascinating to go behind the scenes at these places.

In fact I had previously been to the show at the theatre, so to go back stage and meet some of the cast was quite thrilling, although just a job for Andy. All the work was on foot, so we had to travel light. Our transport was bus or underground. I thought, how interesting, we are using the same tunnels that the rodents use to get around to control them!

Green secure store

I have created a secure store at my workshop and after much deliberation over chemicals and special offers, am lighter to Killgerm by about £3,000. So I now have an array of chemicals and methods to deliver them. All I need is the customers. If anyone could have seen me trying to work



PestBUSter - Protec's Andy Simpson travels light as he uses public transport to move between jobs

out how to set some of the traps, I'm sure they would have wept tears of mirth, as I fought with a Chinese puzzle which could land you in hospital with lots of broken fingers.

First mouse job

I have done my first mouse job and also caught another two squirrels. Just yesterday I did my first survey of a huge country house for a potential contract. Something that struck me immediately was how intrusive the work was. Visiting and inspecting all their bedrooms and cupboards. I felt like an intruder. But that's the deal isn't it!

After the scare of the PestEx lectures, how many rat and bedbug jobs did we attend in London?... None! I'm sure they are out there, but maybe not quite a plague yet?



Give me a ring! Russell Goodbourn poses for the camera on HMS Belfast.

The battle goes on at St Pancras

In the last issue of *Pest*, we exclusively revealed the extensive bird proofing work undertaken at St Pancras station in London prior to its reopening. But this is not the end of the story. The responsibility of ensuring the station remains bird-free now falls upon the wings of the Harris hawks flown by Mark Bigwood of A&M Hawk UK.

The bird proofing at St Pancras may have been the most extensive undertaken in a public building in the UK, but, with trains regularly coming and going, it is impossible to totally seal-up William Barlow's 16.7 million cubic feet masterpiece. The end of this Victorian icon remains open to the elements – meaning birds can still fly into the main station area, even though their accommodation and roosting options remain severely limited.

"It's virtually impossible to totally exclude birds from the Barlow building," explains bird management specialist Mark Bigwood from Leatherhead-based A&M Hawk UK. "I was called in in September 2007 prior to the station's reopening in the November. At that point there were 20 to 30 pigeons setting-up home in the roof and taking advantage of the large quantity of food dropped around the place. We started flying our Harris hawks once a week, but this has built-up to two to three times a week. I'm delighted to say we are now on

Elektra in action – an impressive sight



Mark Bigwood of A&M Hawk UK with Elektra

top of the problem. We find one or two pigeons in the entrance area, but only very occasionally are there any in the main roof." Pigeons are the number one culprit, but the odd crow or jackdaw has tried its luck in the station. In addition to the main station building and platforms, Mark and his hawks also patrol the exterior of the building and the maze of service roads below.

Mark set-up A&M Hawk UK in 1996 having previously been a computer boffin working in the City for 15 years. However, he grew to dislike the lifestyle and the commuting and was looking for a complete change. Having always had a keen interest in falconry, Mark turned his hobby into the successful business it is today.

A&M Hawk UK has six Harris hawks on its payroll. However the work at St Pancras is reserved for the boys. Male Harris hawks are smaller and faster than the girls. They are also nimbler, meaning they can negotiate the complicated beam structure in the roof more easily. The larger, slower but more aggressive female is also flown to clear any pigeons that might be tempted to sample the delights of food dropped on the ground from one of the many food outlets.

Early in the morning is the best time for Mark and his hawks to patrol the station. He uses the same hawks on each occasion as they soon learn the spots likely to hold any unwanted pigeons. The hawks are flown when they are hungry as scared pigeons look like a tasty meal. But it is very unusual for the hawk to catch one. Pigeons can fly quicker and easily out-manoeuvre the larger bird. However occasionally one is caught – not good news. Mark recalls the time when a pigeon was taken for plucking and eating on one



The end of the Barlow building opens onto the new platform area and proves impossible to keep pigeons out



The multitude of eating areas within the station concourse provide endless ready meals for birds

of the main Eurostar train tracks. The result; not only the closure of the Eurostar line, but it took Mark three days to coax back and recapture his well-fed hawk!

The other main hazard at St Pancras is the people. Mark is constantly being approached by curious members of the public. Mark explains: "I get asked the same questions time and time again. What sort of bird is it? What does it eat? What are you doing? Everyone is very supportive, but you really do have to be good with the public. Working here is not for everyone – in fact some of my staff dislike it, so I usually look after this site myself."

People don't expect to find a bird with long talons and a four foot wingspan flying amongst the travellers. This has led to Mark and his birds becoming something of a celebrity. Mark, accompanied by either Comet or Elektra, is frequently photographed and has appeared on television on several occasions.

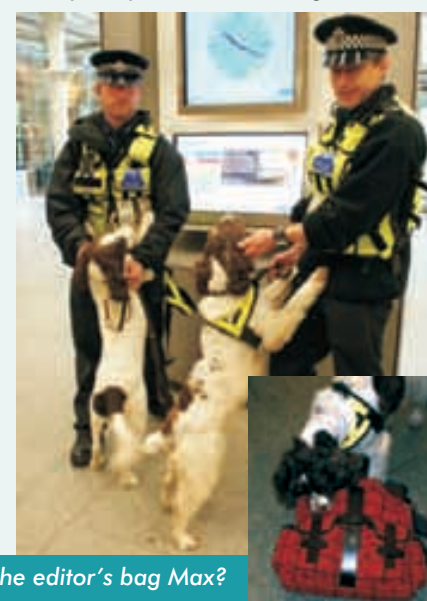
Not the only working animals

Hawks are not the only animals hard at work at St Pancras. Max and Charlie are working springer spaniels.

They belong to the London Transport Police. Accompanied by their handlers, their task is sniffing out explosives. Happily they have not found any yet. Maybe they could be trained to recognise bedbugs too? The dogs visit the station two or three times a week and they also attract a crowd.

As PC Andrew Harford-Smith explains: "Just like Mark and his hawks, we get endless questions from the public. The dogs certainly have a job of work to do here, but everyone is very pleased to see us and people feel reassured by our presence. If nothing else, we act as very good public relations for the security services."

Certainly Max and Charlie are delightful, energetic little characters. Within a flash, Max was spotted checking out the editor's bag. Unfortunately for him, there was nothing more exciting in it than a banana for breakfast and a supply of *Pest* magazines and mints!



What's suspicious in the editor's bag Max?

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PestEx 2009 something for everyone

With over 60 stands to visit, you needed the tenacity of a ratting terrier to get round them all! Almost to a man, the exhibitors viewed PestEx 2009 as a positive and business-generating exercise.

PestEx exhibitions are always seen as international and this year was no exception. Whilst the quantity of visitors might be small in number (the figures mentioned by the organisers were around 1,250 over the two days, their quality (meaning plenty of decision-makers) makes up for it.

All the usual companies were present. Sorex and Network had undergone a transformation reflecting their acquisition by

BASF with all three companies exhibiting under the BASF Pest Control Solutions banner.

Probably the exhibitor who had come the furthest was Airofog from China.

There was also strong representation from Europe with Alochem, Babolna Bio, Ecotrade, Fumi-Hogar, I.N.D.I.A., Igeba, Liphatech, MO-El, OR.MA, Pecom, Plastdiversity, Silvanderson, Sitno and Urbanguard, all present. From the 'other side of the pond', Orkin were looking to sign-up franchises, whilst AP&G and Earth Care, along with the

familiar presence of Steve Cooper from Kness, had products on display.

After the close of the exhibition on the first day, an evening event had been organised by BPCA. Reports on its success and the standard of catering were mixed.

Running throughout the event was a series of seminars and practical demonstrations.



Bruce Blything and the IP team were kept busy



Killgerm's David Lovell holding forth to customers as usual!



Richard Lunn from SX Environmental smiles as he records the latest big order



David Brazier at WaspBane never misses a chance to show off his equipment



Graham Crowe, left, in charge of fun and frolics on the Russell stand

Interest varied from a handful of delegates to a full house. Predictably the most popular were the technical seminars.

Clive Boase from the Pest Management Consultancy chaired the bedbug session where the Greater London Pest Liaison Group presented their Good Practice Guides to combat this pest, which they estimate is increasing by 25% per year. Keep an eye on the **Pest** website as news of their availability will be posted here.

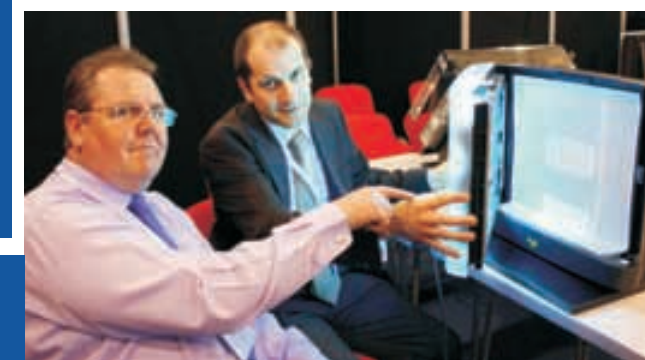
The rodenticide resistance seminar, chaired by Adrian Meyer from Acheta, painted a somewhat worrying picture. See our feature on pages 16 and 17 in this issue.

Popularity of the practical sessions varied, but delegates were given a real 'hands-on'



Above: Smiles all round at the bedbug seminar where the Greater London Pest Liaison Group launched their new Beating Bedbugs leaflets.

Right: One of the practical workshops was on EFks



opportunity along with advice from experts so it was a shame some were not so full.

In the business theatre there were plenty of empty seats for the session on *Increasing profits without cutting corners*. The session was billed as covering marketing and revenue opportunities, identifying and satisfying your target audience, managing vehicles and using credit effectively. Neither of the first two topics got a mention at the Thursday seminar but, for anyone running a

fleet of vehicles there were some useful pointers on how to improve efficiency such as switching to vehicles with low CO₂ emissions to pay lower road fund tax.

The session on finance by David Nash of Chancery Tax was also useful, if only to give some pointers on what questions to ask your own accountants. David was particularly keen that all businesses double-check that they are claiming all the allowances they are entitled to so that their tax bill is minimised. Hear, hear to that!

WWW



There was plenty to discuss on the Lodi (left) and Pelgar (above) stands

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COMMERCIAL
ExCeL contract

Pest control in gigantic proportions

If you visited the PestEx event at ExCeL you couldn't help but be impressed by the size of the venue.

It is the largest and most versatile space in London stretching to 90,000m² and cost over £300m to build. It is capable of handling 50,000 visitors a day (slightly more than attended PestEx!), has 45 meeting rooms, numerous restaurants and fast-food outlets, 6,000 parking spaces and it's all on a site stretching over 100 acres. In pest control terms – quite a contract.

Keen to discover who looks after the venue, a few enquiries revealed that Enviroguard from Penshurst near Tonbridge in Kent take care of all pest control matters over the entire ExCeL site.

Enviroguard's technical manager, Peter McAuley, explained: "We have looked after ExCeL since the day it opened in 2000. The areas the public see are just one side of the



Part of the Enviroguard team, who look after pest control at ExCeL, during a visit to PestEx. Left to right: Julia Watson (senior key account manager), John Parle (bird team manager), John Somner (director), Matthew Rose (senior technician), Peter McAuley (technical manager) and Jo Lant (administrative manager)

equation – the service roads and backstage area took quite a time to become familiar with. I make regular weekly visits. Being a new building with so many food outlets, it runs the risk of the usual array of pests. Birds, in particular pigeons, require considerable time and effort to exclude."

A few weeks before PestEx, ExCeL played host to the world's leaders at the G20 London Summit. Extremely worryingly for

John Parle, Enviroguard's bird team manager, was the fact that a pigeon had decided he wanted to join in. The thought of Barack Obama being dive-bombed whilst addressing the world didn't bear thinking about. Despite all John's best endeavours, the pigeon could not be caught. Fortunately, it did not put in an appearance, unlike at the recent Boat Show, when a pigeon quite happily set-up shop on top of the mast of one of the most expensive yachts!

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New at PestEx

A variety of new products were on display at PestEx. Here is a quick review of some of those which caught the eye and have not been featured in *Pest* before. As predicted in Issue 2, there were several new products designed for use in bedbug management.

Closing the case on bedbugs

All neatly packed into a discrete and portable case, the CVC 3000 from Cimex Science offers an effective means to detect bedbugs. Designed to mimic the human body, the CDC 3000 emits CO₂, heat and synthetic attractant, irresistible to bedbugs. The CO₂ cartridge inside the case lasts for up to 10 hours of continuous detection.



An open and shut case for Mark Russell of Cimex Science

After as little as one hour, bedbugs are drawn out of their hiding places. They enter an opening in the case, which traps them in a two inch removable capture slide. This allows counting and documentation of those caught.

Based in the USA, Cimex Science says that as the CDC 3000 can detect very low bedbug infestation levels, it allows treatment to be quickly undertaken to prevent infestation.

www.cimexscience.com

Use cold to control insects

Criopest from Italian manufacturers, Ecomtrade, harnesses the power of liquid nitrogen to eliminate insect pests, including bedbugs, with cold.

A tank holds up to 50 litres of nitrogen, which is then discharged via a series of tubes and nozzles, forming a cloud which reaches minus 120°C. 100% insect mortality is claimed by the manufacturer.

As it is odour-free, pesticide free and non-toxic, it is an ideal product to use in food plants, hotels, restaurants and locations which work around the clock.

www.eco-trade.it



Helen Datta of Vermend demonstrates the Rat Blocker

Prevention is the cure

This device is designed to prevent rats entering buildings via the sewer system. Marketed by London-based Vermend, Rat Blocker may prevent the rats, but it does allow the free flow of waste in the other direction. It is available in four main sizes for pipe diameters 100mm to 250mm, but can also be made to order to any size. It is made of acid proof AISI 316 laser-cut stainless steel.

The manufacturer is keen to point out that the Rat Blocker has been rigorously tested by the Danish Technological Institute under tough and realistic conditions and has been approved for use in sewage pipes. To install the product, remove the manhole cover, insert the operating handle and lower it into the sewer pipe. Once in position, turn the operating handle until securely positioned then remove the handle.

www.vermend.co.uk

BB Alert Active joins BB Alert Passive

The first UK bedbug monitor, now christened the BB Alert Passive, developed by Bed-Bugs Ltd was exclusively revealed in *Pest* Issue 2. To develop the concept further is the BB Alert Active. Both sold by Midmos Solutions (a division of Brandenburg UK), they were on display on their stand.

The BB Alert Passive, is designed to be used as part of a routine monitoring programme which checks signs for bedbug activity. Having had a blood meal the bedbug returns to the harbourage often defecating prior to entering. Containing no active components, this monitor can be used for up to 12 months.

If bedbug activity is detected, BB Alert Active comes into play, or it can also simply be used as part of a monthly monitoring programme. Dull grey in colour, it contains an activator, which when exposed to the air and placed inside the monitor, provides the monitor with 'body temperature' whilst precisely mimicking respiration. The device also features 'hairs' which, to a bedbug, are mistakenly thought to be the fur of a small animal.

The activator in the device is disposable, and can be used up to three times if no activity has been identified. "Used either separately, or in combination, these monitors are ideal tools," says Mathew.



Mathew Kaye explains the way the BB Alert Active works

www.bedbugsalert.com

Bug dome locates your bedbugs



Barrettine's Iain Turner gets his hands on the new Bug Dome

Developed by Silvanderson from Sweden, Bug Dome consists of two parts – a heated section and a trap section.

The trap section is placed onto the electrically heated section. The trap section contains a special adhesive which stops the bedbugs escaping once they have fallen into the trap. The whole unit is then placed under the bed, or wherever monitoring is required, plugged-in and checked regularly.

The heat combined with the special attractant, lures bedbugs into the trap explains Silvanderson.

www.silvanderson.se

Longer lasting EFK tubes

Developed by Philips, marketed by Alchochem Hygiene and available from Barrettine, these long-life UV-A lamps offer more than 150% more light than conventional lamps, meaning tubes need only be changed once every two years. In addition, the amount of mercury used within each lamp is reduced by 60% as well as the glass being 100% lead free. All good news for the environment, says Alchochem Hygiene's Ronald van Lierop, pictured below.

www.alchochem.net



A quantum leap in ant control

Regulatory approval arrived in the nick of time to allow Bayer Environmental Science to unveil its new ant control product at PestEx.

Bayer's Alan Morris, pictured right, says Maxforce Quantum is a gel bait designed for control of black and tropical ants. A more detailed product review is presented on pages 28 & 29 of this issue.

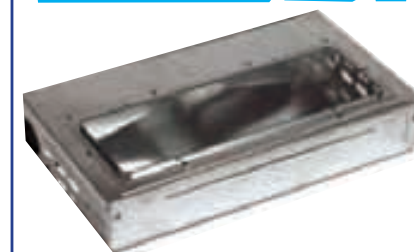


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Ant control gets faster

Bayer's Maxforce Quantum approved

A new product is always worth exploration, but one that promises a quick and easy solution to a difficult pest problem, such as Bayer's new Maxforce Quantum, is an exciting prospect. **Pest** associate editor, Helen Riby, reports.

Maxforce Quantum, Bayer Environmental Sciences' new gel bait for ant control has arrived. Regulatory approval was received at the beginning of April; the successful conclusion of years of development work and an investment of several million pounds by the company.

The new imidacloprid-based product uses Bayer's exclusive bait matrix technology to control all the major problem ant species – black/garden, Pharaoh's and ghost ants. It is also effective on the less common, but nonetheless difficult to control, Argentine ants.

An under-rated problem

"Ants are often an under-rated problem," suggests insect expert Clive Boase from The Pest Management Consultancy. "Other bigger crawling insect pests, such as cockroaches, get all the attention but just because ants tend to be small and inconspicuous doesn't mean that they shouldn't be taken seriously."

Size isn't everything. In fact, it is because they are so small that ants can pose such big problems for professional pest controllers. In particular, the tropical species such as Pharaoh's ants and the translucent ghost ants can be very difficult to detect. Clive continues: "These tiny insects get inside things. For example, in hospitals I've even come across Pharaoh's ants inside sterilised surgical equipment."

Ants in hospitals are bad news. Whilst there has been no recent research in the UK there is plenty of evidence from overseas that ants

in hospitals can carry all the major pathogens, including multi-resistant strains such as MRSA. "If you checked ants in UK hospitals today, the chances are that you would also find MRSA and other infections. The only reason MRSA has not been found on ants in the UK yet is because no-one has looked for it. I am not saying that ants are the main vector, but they are an additional risk factor and because they are small and inconspicuous they often go unnoticed and can pose an ongoing threat."

When it comes to tropical ant control, since the withdrawal of boric acid, the only control options available have been the insect growth regulator products which, by their very nature, are slow acting.

Maxforce Quantum provides rapid control. According to Bayer's Alan Morris: "An initial increase in ant activity might be seen as the ants are attracted to the bait but, within three to seven days of the treatment, there will be a significant reduction in ant activity. Colony elimination is usually within weeks depending on the species and the size of the nest. For example, Pharaoh's ants are normally controlled in one to two weeks and black ants in two to three weeks."

Clive Boase conducted trials against black ants: "Because we were doing field trials under an experimental permit we had to put the bait inside plastic bait stations so that we could collect them up after the trial."

"The approved product may now be applied directly into cracks and crevices, as well as being

required to use bait stations gave us a good opportunity to see the ants' comings and goings. I was initially a little concerned that the ants would take longer to find the bait in the stations, but after an hour or two the ants at many sites were hurrying in and out of the stations taking the syrup back to the nest. All the nests in our trials were eliminated within two to three weeks," he explains.

A huge advance

Ecolab's technical manager, Fiona Murphy, is another pest control expert who is looking forward to getting full access to Maxforce Quantum. She too was involved in trialing the product. "Maxforce Quantum has proved very effective across a variety of environments against Pharaoh's, ghost and black ants," says Fiona. "It's a huge advance on what we've had to work with in the past," she says.

Approval for Maxforce Quantum came through much earlier in the Republic of Ireland where Fiona used it to complete a particularly difficult Pharaoh ant treatment in a food factory. "We've also used it under a trials permit against garden or black ants around hospitals in Yorkshire and the Midlands," she adds. "In both case it did an excellent job."

Maxforce Quantum is a viscous liquid similar in consistency to honey. "It's a low dose product with a recommended application rate of just 0.2g per m²," she explains. "Using a standard gel applicator we found that our technicians needed a bit

It only takes a tiny drop of new Maxforce Quantum



of practice in applying the product in such small amounts but they soon got used to it." Wherever there is an ant problem – a food factory, hospital, a block of flats or the local pub's beer garden, customers generally want the pests controlled as quickly as possible. "Maxforce Quantum is a fantastic advance on the juvenile hormone analogue that we've used in past, which can take up to 18 weeks to give complete control," enthuses Fiona.

"However the size and complexity of the infestation will impact on treatment times," she adds. "In relatively easy circumstances it may take as little as two weeks. We've certainly seen huge relief of pretty big infestations in that timescale. However, to achieve complete elimination can take longer and even if you gain control quickly you do need to keep going back to check that all is well."

Maxforce Quantum performance*

Species	Visible reduction	Complete control
Pharaoh's ants (<i>Monomorium pharaonis</i>)	3 to 7 days	1 to 2 weeks
Ghost ants (<i>Tapinoma melanocephalum</i>)	3 to 7 days	6 weeks
Black garden ants (<i>Lasius niger</i>)	7 days	2 to 3 weeks
Argentine ants (<i>Linepithema humile</i>)	3 to 7 days	2 weeks
- indoor nest	1 to 2 weeks	3 to 4 weeks
- outdoor nest		

* typical performance: incomplete treatment and/or re-invasion may delay control

Maxforce Quantum comes in a 30g cartridge which contains 150 single doses, enough to treat 150m² – that's enough to treat around 15 apartments. Its unique non-drying formulation remains active for up to three months. Ants are attracted to the bait to feed before returning to their nest along with some of the droplet and subsequently eradicating the colony.

Small droplets (1cm diameter) should be placed where there are ant trails, in cracks and crevices, by nest entrances and so on. As Clive Boase explains: "Like all gel bait treatments this is a much easier and less time consuming task than spraying. There's no mixing required, very little disruption to the occupants, and the whole process is much more discrete with little, if any, evidence to show that treatment has taken place."

"My experience with Quantum has been on the indigenous black ant. Black ants are typically erratic feeders, often changing their behaviour and food preference, which can make them very difficult to control. What works for one nest doesn't necessarily work for another. With Maxforce Quantum I was very pleasantly surprised. The product performed consistently well and that's very unusual. If it performs as well on tropical species it will be a very welcome addition to the professional pest control toolkit," he concludes.

© All pictures Dr Reiner Pospischil, Bayer Environmental Science

People who visit outdoor leisure attractions that use low efficiency wasp traps are up to 100 times more likely to be stung by wasps than those visiting areas using WaspBane®. Low efficiency wasp traps frequently look busy and frequently catch large numbers of wasps but because they also release large numbers of wasps they attract more wasps than they kill. To put this into perspective, in a large UK theme park, low efficiency wasp traps helped contribute to as many as 150 life threatening allergic reactions calculated over a 25 year period compared with just 1 life threatening allergic reaction over the same period for the same theme park when protected by WaspBane. There are some 46,000 people in the UK with a potentially fatal allergy to wasps and each year some 12 people die. Up to 300,000 people are treated for stings each year and about 1000 people are hospitalised. Don't make this list bigger than it needs to be. Make sure you only install high efficiency traps.

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* Figures obtained from first aid records over 3 years from major theme parks, race and outdoor attractions

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Black garden ant queen in her nest



Pharaoh's ants taking the gel bait



Ghost ants are also controlled

Standing room only

Over 70 delegates gathered at Shuttleworth College, Bedfordshire on 14 May to attend the third annual one-day training day organised by National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) and sponsored by Barretline Environmental Health.

The title for the day's event was *Reduce your environmental impact and gain a competitive advantage*, so it was only to be expected that some of the greener approaches to pest control would feature.

However, first onto the platform was NPTA's past chairman Barrie Sheard who presented the results of the latest NPTA National Rodent Survey – see **Pest** Issue 2 for details. With the increase in recorded rat and mouse treatments by local authorities, Barrie expressed his obvious frustration that several councils were now closing their pest control units due to the current financial pressures – as reported in **Pest** Issue 1.



Barrie Sheard, NPTA

Regrettably the service previously offered by Peterborough City Council has been abandoned, with all rate-payers requests for pest control now being referred to **Yellow Pages**. Barrie felt councils were losing their way and said: "All councils should refer back to their original remit of taking care of the public's health. What is happening now is leading to a worrying future." This was one of the issues raised by NPTA at their recent meeting with the Minister for the Environment – see page 5 of this issue.

Following Barrie was Natural England's senior wildlife specialist, Paul Butt. In his talk Paul illustrated some of the pesticide misuse and abuse cases he encounters. He called for a clearer definition between the professional and amateur use of products – a view which was strongly echoed by the delegates. Paul said: "Any misuse of products from any sector of the industry – be it from professional pest controllers, farmers, gamekeepers or the general

Displays from manufacturers led to some lively discussions during the tea and coffee breaks



public – which resulted in bad publicity affects the whole industry."

Presentations followed from manufacturers demonstrating their green credentials. Alan Morris from Bayer Environmental Science presented the company's new ant control product, Maxforce Quantum, whilst Bob Nicholls outlined use of the animal repellent containing aluminium ammonium sulphate. This is available as Resist for professional use and Scoot for amateur use.

Perhaps the most natural product of them all – certainly the oldest having been laid down several millions of years ago – is diatomaceous earth as presented by Mike Rogers from Kiotechagil. This naturally-occurring, primarily silica-based, off-white powder is active against a range of insects, causing death by dehydration.

Rounding-off the day, Iain Turner introduced the rodenticide Romax, recently brought to the UK market by Barretline. Containing the active ingredient coumatetralyl, Romax is a chronic poison. Iain reflected the green theme of the day by saying that although Romax is highly efficacious its use is environmentally friendly as it posed a lower risk of secondary poisoning, especially to predatory birds.



Bob Nicholls introduced Resist



Iain Turner, Barretline



	DAY	EVENT	VENUE	FIND OUT MORE
JUNE	19	Vector-borne Diseases in Europe	Society of Chemical Industry, London	www.soci.org
SEPTEMBER	8-12	European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference	Lyon, France	Email: 7EVPME@vet-lyon.fr
	21-23	Best of the Best	East Midlands Conference Centre	www.cieh.org/events
	23	Life After Methyl Bromide II	Holiday Inn High Wycombe	info@sofht.co.uk
	23	European Pest Management Briefing Day	Brussels	robfrayatt@cepa-europe.org
	28-29	Pest Controllers Academy	TBC	info@pestcontrollersacademy.co.uk
OCTOBER	26-29	PestWorld 2009	Las Vegas, USA	www.pestworld.org
NOVEMBER	4	PestTech 2009	National Motor Cycle Museum	www.npta.org.uk
	4	Pest Control News dinner	Windmill Village Hotel	Email: editor@pestcontrolnews.com
	14-16	Parasitec 2009	Maghreb, Algeria	www.parasitec.org
	19	SOFHT 30th Anniversary Lecture & Lunch	Savoy Hotel, London	Email: admin@sofht.co.uk
	25-27	FAOPMA 2009	Beijing, China	www.cpa.cn

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