

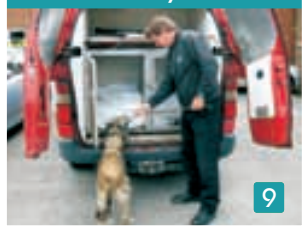
pest

The independent UK pest management magazine

Rat control in the recession

Issue 11
September & October 2010

Will pest control also include strays?



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PestTech time & it's as practical as ever!



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It's time to vote for your favourite



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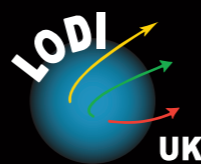
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As the industry's only independent magazine, **Pest** aims to deliver a mix of unbiased news, impartial advice and topical technical features. We are committed to being as inclusive as possible covering every sector of the pest management industry.

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Email: editor@pestmagazine.co.uk

Tel: 01509 233219

Or write to us at:

Pest, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar,
Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ
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Every threat can be an opportunity

Is your cup half empty or half full? Whilst it can be difficult to 'think positively' when your livelihood is under threat, it is true that most threats are also opportunities. Of course very few of us truly like dramatic change. We get comfortable in our routines. Change can be traumatic, especially if its losing your job, but even this can turn out well in the end. Maybe it pushes you to do something you've always wanted to do but never quite had the nerve to 'jack the job in' and try it. Look at our article on page 26 to see how the founders of PelGar took their brave step and left the security of a big company to build their own successful business. And never forget there are always organisations on the look-out for good people - we've got two such opportunities advertised on page 39.

To turn a threat into an opportunity requires imagination and innovation, so it's good to know what an innovative lot pest controllers and their suppliers actually are. If proof were needed look no further than page 33 and the 12 new products shortlisted in the **Pest** Best Product Award 2010. Now's the time to vote for your favourites, so send us your voting form ASAP. Further proof of innovation will be on display at the upcoming PestTech event on 3 November. If you've never been, then get yourself down to the National Motorcycle Museum for what promises to be yet another excellent free event put together for you by NPTA. *Frances Helen*

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- Sense regarding 'giant rats' prevails in *The Guardian*.
- Further fox attack hits the headlines.
- BBC *Watchdog* attacks Legoland for its wasp problem.
- An added extra in a tin of baked beans – a whole rat.
- Bedbugs continue to hit the headlines.
- Swap dodgy ladders while discount available.

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ACP to be disbanded

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) is one of the 177 taxpayer-funded bodies named in the list of quangos and committees to be abolished under Coalition plans as revealed by *The Daily Telegraph*. The ACP is an independent scientific advisory committee that provides advice to all Ministers with responsibility for pesticides. Also of concern, the Environment Agency and Natural England are listed as 'under review'. The Food Standards Agency will be retained, but its remit was quite radically altered earlier in the summer.

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Dennis Papworth dies

It is with great regret that we announce the death, on 31 July, of Dennis Papworth OBE, aged 89, after a short illness. After a distinguished war career, Dennis made a huge contribution to science and toxicology. In retirement he became a special adviser to BPCA during the negotiations over the introduction of the 1985 Food and Environment Protection Act. He was also involved in the *Hospitals Can Damage Your Health* campaign which saw the removal of Crown Immunity from UK hospitals. For this, and other pest control work, he was made a life member of BPCA.

Manager at Cannon nearly gets fired!



© Belfast Newsletter

Called in to treat a wasps' nest in the attic of an East Belfast house, Simon McTier found more than he had bargained for. Operations support manager for Cannon Pest Control NI, Simon said: "The three-inch long section of a mortar with distinctive fins was lying on the floor of the attic close to the wasps' nest. I immediately recognised what it was because one of my in-laws has a similar deactivated device which she uses as a doorstop in her house. In 19 years working in pest control I have never come across anything like this. I had to lean over it to get at the wasp nest but I didn't touch it," he added.

"I told the householder that the good news was the wasps were gone, but that there was a bomb in the attic. Then a few days later the police called, wanting to know more details about the device. I went along to show them where it was. I wasn't nervous initially but when one of the police officers said the bomb looked like it could still be live, I panicked," said Simon.

"We all got out of there pretty sharpish and the street was evacuated while army technical officers dealt with the device." The house belongs to bank worker Andrea McCluskey, who has been living in the Belmont Park area with her husband and two daughters for almost 15 years, unaware the mortar bomb was in her attic. It is believed the World War II bomb was brought home by an Ulster soldier from the battlefield as a souvenir almost 70 years ago.



© Belfast Newsletter

Daughters, Holly (left) and Stefanie McCluskey show their appreciation to their hero, Simon McTier

"Those wasps were a pain but they've turned out to be the best thing that could have happened because we got rid of the mortar," said a very relieved Mrs McCluskey.

New Biocidal Products Regulation gets nearer

On 22 September the EU Parliament voted, at First Reading, in favour of the new Biocidal Products Regulation – to replace the existing Biocidal Products Directive. The legislation was approved by 550 votes in favour, 22 against and 80 abstentions. The Regulation will now go through more discussion and voting at a Second Reading during 2011. So watch this space!

The broad aim of the draft regulation is to update EU rules that govern all biocidal products ranging from insect repellents to water treatment chemicals – including key pest control products such as insecticides and rodenticides.

The EU Parliament voted to ban the most toxic chemicals – especially those that are carcinogenic, harmful to fertility or interfere with genes or hormones. However, it did recognise that sometimes active substances which have fallen within this toxic classification may be needed to protect human health, other animals or the environment – for example to control rodents in the absence of effective alternatives.

MEPs also voted on a raft of specific amendments. One of them was to impose additional restrictions on the commonly-used rat poison, difenacoum. The amendment signalled the wish of some MEPs to put even more restrictions on some biocides than those considered necessary and appropriate by the European Commission. Fortunately, this amendment was defeated – but only just. 304 voted for, 334 against and 15 abstained. This outcome owes much to the extensive lobbying undertaken by all sectors of the European pest control industry. With such a close vote it is likely the pressure on difenacoum, and probably on other anticoagulants, will remain. This might involve pack size limitations, their use only in tamper-resistant boxes and reclassification as 'for professional use only'.

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Pest control companies help in Africa

As an industry, pest controllers are generally a pretty generous bunch. Since 2002 Peter Trotman, managing director of Mitie Pest Control (or, as it was at the time, Eagle Pest Control) has had a connection, via BPCA, with Bansang Hospital in The Gambia. Peter himself has been out to the hospital on several occasions to assess their considerable pest problems and also to train the staff. Pictured below is part of the annual supply of pest control products donated by SX Environmental Health to support this good work. Anita Smith, who is the driving force behind this project, can be spotted waving on the right.

Over in New York, at the Millennium Promise Partners' meeting, Sumitomo Chemical announced it will make a new donation of Olyset anti-malaria nets to every Millennium village in Africa in 2010-2011 – a total of 400,000 nets, worth more than two million US dollars. Also in the US, leading company, Orkin, has announced that for each mosquito treatment they perform, the company will donate one insecticide-treated bed net to African communities.



© M. Hallahan/Sumitomo Chemical-Olyset Net

Connaught crashes

After weeks of financial woes and a shattered share price, Connaught plc announced on 7 September that it was to appoint administrators and suspend the trading of its shares. This followed a failure to secure further funding required to restructure. Connaught had £220m of debt spread over six banks and four other creditors.

The problems arose in its social housing division following the government spending cuts announced in the emergency budget in late June. Connaught identified 31 unprofitable contracts. However, the group's main subsidiaries, which include Connaught Environmental Ltd which comprise the group's Compliance and Environmental divisions, were not being placed into administration and are continuing to trade normally. This includes their pest control activities.

Subsequently on 28 September it was announced that Centrica, the owner of British Gas, has agreed to acquire the gas and electricity services businesses of Connaught's Compliance division for £11.2m. The agreement does not include that division's other operations, which cover water, fire, pest control and other services. Also to be sold is the Connaught Academy, one of the UK's largest independent accredited training centres.

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Wanstead pest controllers face jail

Two former Newham Council pest officers, Terence Webb, 28, from Hainault and Mark Page, 35, from East Ham are accused of stealing a pest control product from their workplace and using it unlawfully near the lakes in the parkland at Wanstead Flats to see if they could kill crows. Appearing on 21 September before Judge Simon Wilkinson, at Snaresbrook crown court, the men have admitted two counts of using a pesticide without approval and two counts of theft. Pre-sentence reports are to be prepared before punishment is handed-down on 18 October. During their lunch breaks over two days, the pest controllers had deliberately baited bread with Ficam W and put it down. The result was the death of 90 birds (including geese, moorhens and coots) and a German shepherd dog.

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New qualifications up and running

Accredited since 1 July, the new qualifications in pest management (RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Award in Pest Management, the RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management and also the RSPH Level 3 Diploma in Pest Management) are up and running. The first successful candidates for the Level 2 Award will soon be receiving their certificates.

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New type of rodenticide resistance found in Kent



Dr Colin Prescott, left, and Dr Alan Buckle

Evidence of a new strain of anticoagulant resistance has turned up in Kent. Dr Alan Buckle and Dr Colin Prescott of Reading University explain how it came to light and, more importantly, what pest professionals can do if they suspect they have encountered resistance.

It has been a very long time since a UK government agency last conducted a survey for anticoagulant resistant rodents. The last proper survey in Kent was done in 1972 by the then Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). There had been earlier reports in 1968 of warfarin resistance around Maidstone, but the results of the much wider 1972 survey were very interesting (see map below). The survey revealed a very extensive focus of warfarin resistance covering a large part of west Kent and East Sussex.

To the north, resistant rats were found in the Thames estuary near Gravesend, Rochester and Chatham. A large part of the eastern Weald, right down to the Channel coast also appears to have reported resistant rat infestations and the focus stretched as far east as East Grinstead.

It is remarkable, then, that after the results of this survey were published in 1973, anticoagulant resistance in Kent seems to have

completely disappeared from the radar. That was until late last year when a pest controller found that he was having great difficulty controlling a rat infestation with bromadiolone and difenacoum on a farm near Cranbrooke in Kent. He sent a sample of rat tails to the University of Reading for DNA sequencing and the results were fascinating.

Not only were all ten rats from which he had sent tail samples carrying an anticoagulant resistance mutation, but the mutation itself was one never before found in the UK. The scientific name of the mutation is tyrosine139phenylalanine, or Y139F for short. All the animals carried two copies of the resistance gene, one from their father and one from their mother, showing that the resistance is very well established in the rat population.

Although not found in the UK before, Y139F is the most common type of anticoagulant resistance found in France. It also occurs very widely in Belgium.

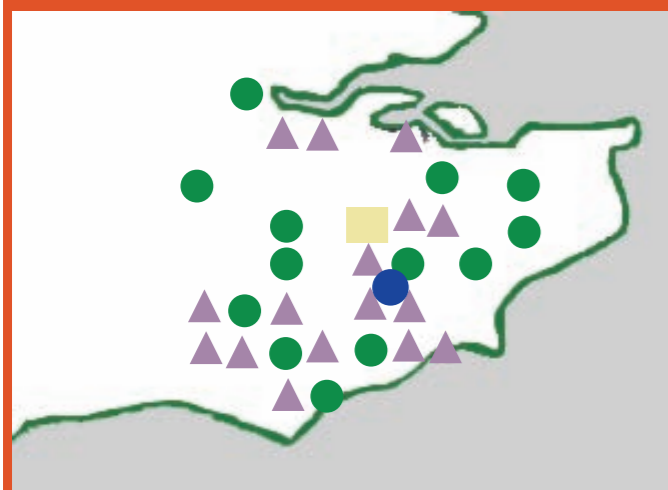
Whilst it would be wrong to conjure up pictures of resistant rats swimming the Channel and scaling the white cliffs of Dover, it is intriguing to note the proximity of the two areas infested with this type of resistance, albeit separated by the English Channel!

Workers in France have isolated the resistance gene and have worked on the ability of the different anticoagulants to control rats that carry it. Their findings are that first-generation anticoagulants, such as chlorophacinone, should not be used. Also, the second-generation compound, bromadiolone, is largely ineffective. The French researchers also raised a question mark over the



If you suspect a resistance problem then send sample rat tails to Reading University for testing

Anticoagulant resistance in Kent



- Site of original 1968 resistance
- Sites during the 1972 survey where resistance was not found
- ▲ Sites during the 1972 survey where resistance was found
- Site of Y139F resistance found in 2009



effectiveness of difenacoum. Brodifacoum and difethialone, however, were fully effective against the Y139F rats. Fine for France, but that doesn't help us much in the UK. Difethialone is not available and brodifacoum cannot be used against most rat infestations, as it is restricted to indoor use.

What does it mean for rat control?

So what can you do if you are working in Kent and find that neither difenacoum nor bromadiolone is working anymore against rats?

The new guidelines from the UK Rodenticide Resistance Action Group (RRAG) provides the following advice:

"If practical applications of both difenacoum and bromadiolone have been found to be unsuccessful against rats carrying resistance mutations, then no further applications of these compounds should be carried out. Further applications of ineffective anticoagulants will exacerbate resistance at the site and constitute an unnecessary and unacceptable risk to non-target animals. If populations are indoors they should be treated with either brodifacoum or flocoumafen. If resistant populations are outdoors, then alternative control measures such as trapping, gassing and habitat modification to reduce the rodent carrying capacity of the site should be attempted.

If these measures are either unsuccessful or impractical, consideration should be given to an application to the Health and Safety Executive for the limited, emergency use of either brodifacoum or flocoumafen around the infested buildings."

However, before you make such an application it would be wise either to contact RRAG, or your trade association, who will be able to tell you more about application procedures.

The new area of anticoagulant resistance in Kent has come to light because of the novel DNA sequencing resistance method. If you suspect anticoagulant resistance in either rats or mice in your area, and would like to carry out DNA testing, please contact us at the University of Reading at email: c.v.prescott@reading.ac.uk.



The guidelines will be online at www.pesticides.gov.uk/rags but can be downloaded now from the **Pest** website at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/content/NewsItem.aspx?id=428

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He ain't nothin but a pound dog!

Will more pest controllers be catching strays?

In a number of local authorities animal welfare/dog warden services fall under the same line manager as pest control. As decision makers stand poised to make substantial cuts in budgets, Nick Warburton looks at combined services and asks what this might mean for the pest control community.

Across the UK, local authority chief executives are busy scrutinising the cost and value of the services they provide to see where they can make savings. Budgets for pest control may have been set for 2010/11, but how the services will be set up and run in a more austere age is less certain.

Until the full implications of the government's next spending review in October become clear, local authority chiefs are remaining understandably coy about the severity of the inevitable spending cuts on their way. Behind the scenes, however, councillors up and down the country are furiously debating the different options on the table and where the axe could fall.

The financial downturn has already shaped the delivery of pest control services (*Pest* issue 9, May & June, page 21). Animal welfare/dog warden services have faced

similarly tough times financially. Like pest control, the provision of the service varies hugely from local authority to local authority.

For every council that offers an excellent well-funded service, another will offer a limited one focused on meeting statutory obligations. Much of the animal welfare/dog warden work is non-statutory and services historically have been under-funded, despite additional responsibilities for stray dogs since April 2008.

Unlike many local authority positions, there is no minimum recognised qualification for dog wardens. Officers receive training from their local authorities, particularly on how to handle dangerous dogs, but do not need a professional qualification to practise. Consequently, they could be seen to be an



© Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

easy target when cuts are made. However, financial motives may not always be the driving force behind combining services. In some cases, it can offer local authorities more options in terms of handling workloads.

The London Borough of Hillingdon, for instance, has been running a



Will combining pest control and animal warden services undermine the professionalism of both?

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successful joint service for nearly 10 years, long before the recession hit. "Animal welfare officers have been trained to deal with both pest control and animal warden services since 2001," says Kathy Sparks, deputy director of environment and consumer protection.

More efficient and flexible...

"This has proved a more efficient and flexible way of working. The number of strays reported can vary a lot from one day to the next and the bulk of our work remains being pest control related."

Outside the capital, a number of local authorities have also given the idea of combining services serious thought.

"We will be looking to merge the services in the future and will know more in a couple of months when a review has taken place," says Liz Lacon, communications manager at Lewes District Council in East Sussex.

Roy Pickard, environmental health manager at Brighton and Hove City Council, recognises that a combined approach is possible, but stresses that both parts of the job must be run professionally.

"There's nothing technically wrong with combining these roles provided the person doing those jobs has the skills to do both competently," he says.

...or undermining professional standing?

But Mark Berry, principal EHO at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, says that not all local authorities provide the level of support that animal welfare officers/dog wardens need.

"I feel that combining the two roles undermines the professional standing of the individual jobs which are, at the end the day, two completely different skills sets," he argues.

"The fact that the two roles are often the first to be considered for merger underlines a lack of awareness and appreciation of those posts at a higher level in some authorities."

Mark does not agree with this approach but fears the situation may get worse once the government's spending review is announced in October.

Job losses feared

One source, who wishes to remain anonymous, holds a similar view and told **Pest**: "If you have already got both a pest control and an animal warden service, it is easier to train a pest control officer to pick up a dog than it is to train an animal warden to be a pest control officer."

"The fear is that animal wardens would lose their posts, as any exercise of combining services is done in an effort to save money. And the only way you can save money is by losing someone."

Animal welfare/dog warden services are already under enormous pressure thanks to the increase in stray dogs that they've had to deal with since section 68 of the Environment and Clean Neighbourhoods Act came into force on 6 April 2008.

Before that date, local authorities and the police shared responsibility for collecting strays, kennelling them and attempting to reunite them with their owners. If a stray was found during working hours, the local authority would be responsible for looking after the animal. In the case of out-of-hours, the responsibility would land with the police.

Police no longer responsible for strays

Since April 2008, however, the police were relieved of their responsibility and the entire stray dog provision was passed on to local authorities. Roy has seen a massive increase in strays in

Brighton and Hove; 347 dogs were collected in 2009-10 compared with 207 dogs in 2007-8 when the responsibility was shared. Other local authorities have seen the same pattern across the country.

He also argues that central government funding has not been nearly enough to cover this additional responsibility, a sentiment shared by other local authorities.

"We are given £20,000 to run this service but that doesn't even pay for one animal welfare officer, let alone them working through the night, needing a premises open, building kennels to store the dogs and the capital costs associated with it."

When the new legislation came into force, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) issued guidance, which said that local authorities only had a statutory duty to collect strays during office hours. In taking over the police's former responsibilities, they are only obliged, as a minimum legal requirement and where 'practicable' to provide an out-of-hours reception point for stray dogs.

Different interpretations abound

Not surprisingly, each local authority has interpreted this guidance differently and the result has been a huge variance in the standard of out-of-hours services provided. Some run a 24/7 service whilst others have either done away with the service, or are considering it.

In some cases, local authorities are sharing the reception point, but this can mean that the public has to travel some distance to hand in a stray (should they feel compelled). The implication is that the number of strays left to roam the streets could increase, which means more dog fouling and potentially an increase in dangerous dogs.

Technically, dog wardens are under no statutory obligation to enforce dog fouling. However, they are still expected to promote dog-related by-laws and the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. Every year, councils receive a huge number of complaints from the public about dog fouling on the streets.

On top of this, dog wardens are also expected to investigate noise complaints from barking dogs and, in some cases, their role even extends to licensing all pet shops and breeding/boarding establishments for cats and dogs.

If the government's spending review in October leads to the sort of severe cuts that most observers predict, it's quite plausible that some



Will public spending cuts lead to commercial opportunities in catching stray dogs?



This one looks like someone's pet but many Staffordshire bull terriers are still bred to fight and so dangerous to catch

local authorities may seriously consider handing pest control officers more animal welfare/dog warden responsibilities.

David Oldbury from the National Pest Advisory Panel (NPAP) says this is a distinct possibility since local authorities are looking to make cuts from anything between 25-40%. He warns that the additional duties given to pest control officers for dog warden services could even include taking on responsibility for aspects of other council services.

Whilst he recognises the need for savings, he is firmly against combining services. "NPAP is trying to increase the standards in pest management generally and I don't think you can do that when you've got multiple services under one umbrella. I don't think you can integrate them effectively."

A commercial opportunity?

This begs the question – could commercial pest control services take over the local authority's dog warden service? In Brighton and Hove, the council outsources its out-of-hours stray dog service to a private animal warden contractor. Roy sees no reason why a pest control firm could not bid for a stray dog contract as long as it met certain criteria.

"They would need to prove they were competent at dog handling and animal care and they would need special vehicles for transporting animals," he says. "Ours have air conditioning and are able to be disinfected. Officers will need protective clothing, grabbers and separate compartments if you are transporting more than one dog."

Whatever happens, the next few months will see some very hard decisions made. With local authority pest control teams already under huge pressure to deliver on their own workloads, it's vital that these services do not suffer as a whole, simply in a bid to save money.

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Council pest control activity declines

The results from the second Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) National Pest Advisory Panel (NPAP) Pest Management survey shows another worrying fall in local authority pest control activity.

The key findings from the new NPAP survey were presented during the CIEH's *Best of the Best* conference held at the Telford International Centre from 21-23 September.

Overall, the results reveal that the role of pest control units in local authorities and the scope of their activities, continues to fall.

The survey was undertaken in February 2009, since when further authorities have abandoned their pest control departments. And, all this is before any further cuts to be announced in October, following the government spending review.

The survey follows on from the NPAP survey in 2002 when 270 authorities replied. With a few small exceptions, the questions were repeated, so the results are comparable. This time there were 255 responses from just over 400 local authorities contacted. One wonders what the position is with the 150+ authorities who did not reply? Maybe their failure to respond is indicative of the pest control service (or lack of) offered.

The headline data shows that the number of local authorities who still provide a pest control service has fallen from 99% of respondents to 90%.

From only three authorities not offering pest control in 2002, a total of 26 authorities spread equally around the country, now no longer do so. Of those who do offer pest control services, the number who have contracted out these activities to a third party has nearly doubled – from 13% in 2002 to 22% in 2009.

Looking at training, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of authorities (35% in 2009, compared with 46% in 2002) who no longer have a structured training programme in place for staff. This means over half of all authorities who offer pest control do not have a full training programme. District councils record the lowest figure with nearly 60% without structured training.

Turning to the treatment of individual pests, it comes as no surprise to see that the ratio of in-house versus contractor treatments has

shifted. Without exception the proportion of pest types treated by contractors has risen.

Take rats as the example. In 2002 over 80% of treatments were performed in-house. This had fallen to just over 60% in 2009. The comparable figures for contractors show a rise from 17% in 2002 to well over 20% in 2009. There is a similar trend for mice, see Figures 1 and 2.

On the insect front, authority wasps' nest treatments fell from over 80% in 2002 to just over 60% in 2009. Contractor treatments rose by 5%.

For bedbugs, local authority treatments fell by nearly 20%, whereas the comparable figure for contractors rose by less than 10%.

With the almost universal increase in bedbug infestations during the period, (a recorded rise in the survey of 38%) it must mean that more private pest controllers outside of any local authority involvement have serviced this (and also the wasps' nest) market.

As to be expected the number of free pest treatments in private dwellings has declined by around 15% for each of the pests that account for the largest number of treatments – namely rats, mice, bedbugs and cockroaches.

On the other end of the scale, the number of enforcement notices issued has risen by an

almost similar percentage figure. One wonders which option is the more cost-effective for an authority?

Finally, and of equal concern, the number of authorities involved in organised regional pest liaison groups has declined from 70% in 2002 to just 57% in 2009.

Figure 1: In-house local authority treatments

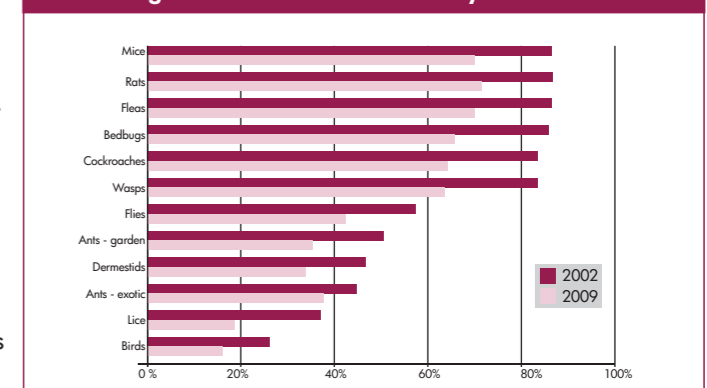


Figure 2: Contractor treatments

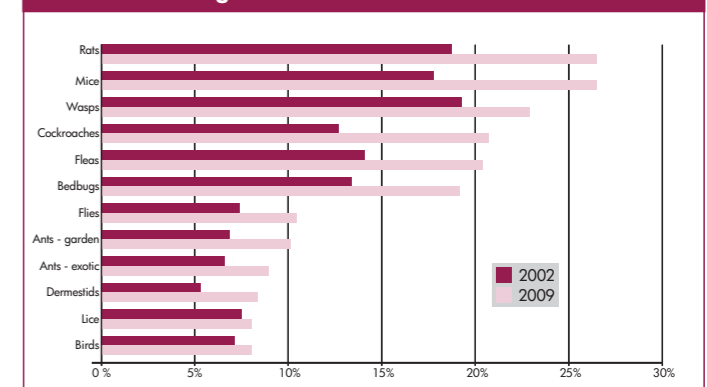
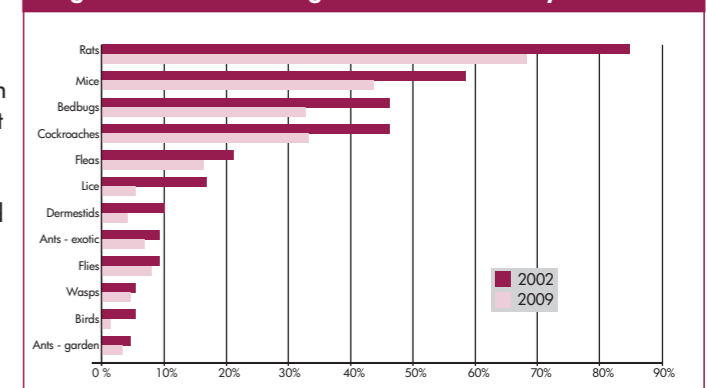


Figure 3: Private dwellings – free local authority treatments





Biting the national rat control bullet

Sharon Hughes, rodenticide development manager for leading manufacturer, BASF Pest Control Solutions, examines how best pest controllers can face up to the challenge of the biggest government cut-backs in living memory.

Successive rounds of local authority funding cuts in the 1980s and 1990s had a major impact on the co-ordinated control of rats and mice in towns and cities across the UK. But these earlier service belt-tightenings pale into insignificance in the face of the current national imperative to reduce government spending.

Over the past 30 years progressive budgetary cuts, sub-contracting and charging for pest control services – not to mention the privatisation of water authorities – have led to an increasingly fragmented and reactive approach to urban pest management; an approach which the most recent NPTA *National Rodent Control Survey* shows is barely keeping the lid on rat problems, in particular.

With local authorities preparing for economies of 25% or more for the next financial year, the threat of more service reductions and fragmentation is acute. With it comes the prospect of greater and more intransigent rat infestations unless positive action is taken to improve the efficiency of pest control on the ground.

More fragmented approach

When the primary responsibility for control lay with local councils and water authorities as a public health service, rats were generally controlled in the planned and co-ordinated way they need to be for greatest effectiveness. But all this has changed.

Chartered Institute of Environment Health figures from 2002/3 show 76% of Local Authorities treating domestic rat infestations free of charge. In contrast, comparable NPTA data for 2008/9 reveals only 46% doing so.

In recent years rat control in both domestic and commercial properties has become more and more reactive as well as fragmented. Rat populations in many places have been allowed to build until they become severe and then only treated on individual premises, at different times and with little or no co-ordination.

Yet we know rats are no respecters of boundaries. They typically forage over 50-100 metres. What's more, the territories of family groups within a colony tend to overlap to a considerable degree. In addition, we know individuals can travel over relatively long distances to seek out new territories, using the conveniently concealed routes offered by sewers and drains.

Interconnected family groups

Urban infestations generally involve several inter-connected family groups spread over a number of premises. Rats feeding in one place are also likely to be feeding, if not living, next door – as are other colony members. This, in most cases, makes control from baiting on any one property in isolation a particular challenge.

Also, if they are only consuming a rodenticide on part of their foraging range, it takes far longer for individual rats to consume a lethal dose. Equally, extended family members feeding elsewhere are left unaffected to rapidly recolonise the premises after treatment.

Without any change in professional practice, therefore, we face a future of declining control effectiveness, increasing bait usage, longer baiting periods and a greater number of visits. Hardly a recipe for the greatest economy or efficacy, let alone the best anti-resistance strategy or non-target species safety.

So, accepting that the pressure on local government budgets will only grow more intense in the years ahead what's the best way forward? There's no doubt that cost-effectiveness across communities must be the key driver. In other words, individual pest

controllers pursuing more cost-effective treatments themselves and co-ordinating their work with other colleagues for the greatest overall community value.

Individually, pest controllers cannot afford anything less than the very best baiting practice. If the rats they are treating have access to other local food sources outside their control then it is essential to offer the most appealing and palatable baits available.

With baits representing, in most cases, less than 10% of the total treatment cost, it's a hugely false economy to use a cheaper bait if its lower effectiveness means increasing the biggest single cost of treatment – labour – by extended baiting periods or call-backs.

The foraging grain technology of advanced Neosorex and Neokil grain baits and ultra-palatable appeal of specialist difenacoum pasta formulations offer the best multi-feed options in this respect.

We shouldn't forget the single-feed actives like flocoumafen either. Even though UK legislation confines these to indoor use, they can be an excellent complement to outdoor difenacoum, requiring far lower levels of consumption to kill and offering particular value for anti-resistance strategies.

The pulse-baiting that the single-feeds allow gives valuable economies in both bait use and the number of visits required, which more than offset their greater unit cost.

Bait placement is key

Alongside the most cost-effective bait the onus must be on individual technicians to ensure the best bait placement from the outset too, making sure baiting is focused sharply on the most favourable locations for rat feeding and presented in a way which overcomes their natural neophobia as rapidly and completely as possible

Better co-operation essential

Improved individual practice must go hand-in-hand with better co-operation between pest controllers working for different clients

Control operations on adjacent premises need to be conducted simultaneously if colonies are to be effectively controlled and above ground operations in many areas really need to be co-ordinated with sewer baiting for the greatest value.

Getting different householders or businesses, let alone competing pest control teams, to co-operate in this way is far from easy. However, it has to be in the interest of all concerned to ensure it happens. Otherwise, incomplete control or rapid re-colonisation will lead to persistent problems, continued complaints and extra costs for everyone.

More pest controllers following-up complaints or requests for treatment could perhaps contact neighbouring households or businesses about particular problems and seek their involvement in joint action. And those undertaking routine control operations should think about timing them to coincide with similar activities in the area and/or water company sewer baiting.

Perhaps Local Authorities could even take on more of a co-ordinating role here – in the



same way many do with utilities wishing to dig up local roads.

Whilst on the face of it this may appear to be adding to an already steep workload, if it actually saves in-house time and effort and reduces complaint levels, it must represent good value.

Whatever our industry does, everyone needs to think far more creatively and constructively about how we work both individually and together if far greater rat problems are not to become an inevitable consequence of the current round of public spending cuts.

Liverpool City Council: Been there, done that!

Steve Hughes, team leader for the Public Health Department at Liverpool City Council is as anxious as anyone about the outcome of the government spending review. One scenario some councils may adopt is switching from what is now a free-of-charge service (for domestic rodent pests and selected insect pests) to a chargeable system.

But, Liverpool has already had experience of making such a switch. **Pest** asked Steve how this went and what the impacts were on the Council's co-ordinated rodent control programme.

"Local politics in Liverpool is a subject all of its own," says Steve, "so I won't attempt to explain how we got into this position, but for ten months from April 2005 until February 2006 our pest control activities changed almost overnight from what had been a free service to householders, to one where we made a small charge – and by small I mean £15 + VAT per call-out."

He continues: "Once introduced, there was an immediate reduction in service requests. In the year before the charges came in (2004-2005) we responded to almost 10,500 requests for rodents and non-seasonal pest control. This level halved in the year when charges were made, but returned to its original level once we switched back to a free service. The pests didn't go away – people were just prepared to put up with them. How long they would have stuck it out, I can't say, because as soon as we were

back to a free service the phones rang again."

So what did Liverpool learn from this experience? On the negative side, the number of enforcement notices rose. In situations such as in blocks of flats, or with terraced houses, there were treatment problems when some residents were prepared to pay and others not.

On the positive side, there were some heart-warming stories where householders stumped-up the cost of treatment for their neighbours who genuinely couldn't afford it. Almost jokingly, Steve said that access to properties was easier as residents were in a lot more frequently when the technician called. People were also more prepared to listen and undertake such tasks as rodent proofing.

For his own staff, the lack of call-outs gave them the opportunity to move away from purely reactive pest control. To practice a more proactive approach working alongside builders, on demolition sites and the like.



Liverpool's Steve Hughes



A breath of fresh air

New to BPCA is Simon Forrester, recently appointed as its new chief executive officer. *Pest* editor Frances McKim went to see how he was getting on whilst he was on the five-day Warwick general pest control course.

Having only started in his new role on 9 August, Simon has already scored a hit in the eyes of many in the industry. He is young(ish), enthusiastic and easy to talk to. And most importantly in this practical industry – he is keen to roll-up his sleeves and find out what pest control is all about. Just as well, as Simon comes to the industry without any previous experience of professional pest control.

Whilst his first impressions of the industry are still very fresh in his mind, *Pest* went to meet Simon to discover his opinions. This meeting was far from formal and didn't take place in the BPCA's offices in Derby – no – the interview was held sitting in the lecture room at Warwick University after the completion of the fourth day of

the BPCA Warwick course. Simon – like many before him new to the industry – was joining over 30 other delegates taking part in the five-day general pest control course, culminating with him sitting the exam for the RSPH/BPCA Level 2 award in pest management.

Casually dressed in shirt and jeans, how was it all going? "To be honest, part of me was dreading the course," admitted Simon. "I was coming to this completely fresh and I had no idea what I'd let myself in for. I did have a good look over the content of the BPCA online learning package so as to assess the sort of level it would be pitched at.

"Certainly it's an intensive week. There's a lot to get through during the day. Then in the evenings there's revision and a chance to study previous exam papers. But what's as important as the formal tuition is the chance to chat to the other delegates. There's much sharing of experiences and problems, as well as the establishment of links for future use, where one pest controller can help-out another," explains Simon.

So what of the other delegates on the course? "One of the first comments some of the other delegates made was asking how I'd managed to get a place, having only been in post for just four weeks. Some of them have had their places booked for months. The answer is simple. The BPCA executive board had the foresight in May to hold a place for me, to ensure I got a good start in the industry. It's been a real eye-opener to see how varied pest control can be as a career, and the importance of getting the job right.

"There's a really interesting cross-section of delegates – everyone from the daughter of an existing BPCA member who is keen to join the family business (Precision Pest Management), to employees of a food production company about to expand its remit, to a whole range of people either already running their own pest control company, or who are about to start-up their own business,"



Coffee break time. Simon with Danny Thatcher of B & D Pest Control, left, and Steven Strawbridge from the MOD

What you may not know about Simon Forrester

- 1 Born in Staffordshire, Simon, 42, moved away to study at university before returning to the Midlands.
- 2 He has a degree in environmental science from Greenwich University and also an MBA awarded by Birmingham City University.
- 3 Simon finds trade associations fascinating having worked for the Association of Interior Specialists, the British Association of Conferences Destinations and the British Dietetic Association.
- 4 A keen (though learner) golfer, Simon also follows the fortunes of Stoke City and enjoys driving on track days at racing circuits around the UK.

explained Simon. "Many of these have come to pest control as a second career, having either been in the armed forces, or worked within other industries such as earth excavation, the steel and pottery industries, to name but a few.

"One thing everyone has in common is a desire to be professional. The desire to offer a quality and professional service, and, most importantly, to clearly differentiate themselves from the cowboy traders," enthused Simon.

So, whilst it's all still new, what are Simon's impressions of the industry? "Pest controllers may think their industry could be viewed by others as somewhat obscure, but don't forget everyone has some connection with pest control – even if it's just sorting out a wasps' nest at home. Others may come across pest control via a shooting hobby. What I've been impressed with is the passion of those working within the industry. And also the friendly welcome I've received," concluded this new recruit.

Over the next few weeks Simon's induction programme continues with some practical days alongside pest controllers out in the field servicing their clients.

Good luck to Simon for the future. As pest control is such a 'people industry' Simon's easy going nature should mean he fits in well. However, all those political and organisational challenges within the industry remain to be faced head-on.

And did Simon pass his Level 2 exam? For the answer to that question, you will need to ask Simon yourself!



Things you might not know about Warwick

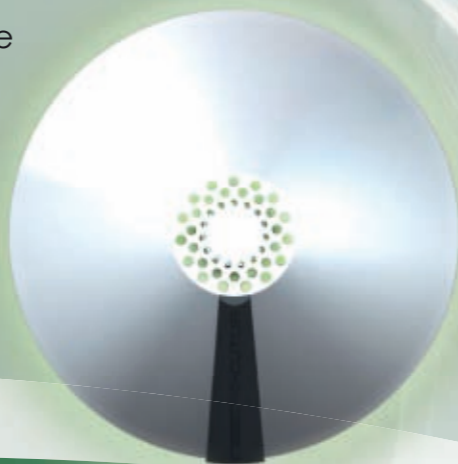
- 1 To most in the industry it is simply known as 'the Warwick course' – a bit of a problem if it ever moves away from Warwick!
- 2 The first few courses which began in 1980 were held at Aston University, moving to Warwick in 1982.
- 3 Virtually since day one, the courses have been fully subscribed. With three a year now, each with 30+ delegates (plus over-flow courses), this means at least 3,000 people have undergone this training.
- 4 There are several long-standing lecturers but the longest servers are Clive Boase, Mike Kelly and Adrian Meyer. Adrian has the distinction of having lectured on every single course, except one.
- 5 Over the years the course has evolved. As the industry has become increasingly regulated, so the emphasis on such issues as legislation and health & safety has increased. Originally these were covered as a bit of an after-thought on Friday afternoon. Today, they occupy the whole of day one. Likewise, the syllabus has become more structured to fulfil examination requirements.
- 6 One of the key champions behind the BPCA training scheme was David Jenkins – founder of Check Services and father of Lewis. At the time David was chairman of the Training & Certification committee.



Trainees on one of the early courses held in the mid 1980s. Photo supplied by Phil Quirk (back row, seventh from the left) who still works in pest control for Wirral Borough Council. How many people can readers recognise? For example, Tony O'Dowd from Killgerm is in the picture – can you spot him?



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Shocking results in RSPB report

2009 was another bad year for birds of prey with far too many incidents of shooting, trapping and poisoning. That's according to the RSPB's 20th annual *Birdcrime* report published mid-September and detailing 384 persecution incidents in the UK. Of the reported incidents, 224 were in England, 123 in Scotland, 17 in Wales and 11 in Northern Ireland. Nine crimes against birds of prey could not be assigned to a country and were recorded at a UK level.

The 20 years of reporting on bird crime has revealed a number of police force areas which suffer higher levels of bird of prey persecution. Top of the league in England are North Yorkshire, West Mercia, Northumbria, Devon & Cornwall and Cumbria.

In 2009, the government announced that bird of prey persecution was one of the top wildlife crime priorities. In view of the current spending review, the RSPB is concerned that resources to tackle wildlife crime will be seen as a soft option.

Copies of the *Birdcrime* report can be downloaded from the **Pest** website under News.



© D Bromley, RSPB

A male peregrine caught in a spring-trap deliberately placed near a nest in Staffordshire. This bird had to be euthanized

The battle of the badger begins?

True to their election promise, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced, on 15 September, a consultation on the issuing of licences to farmers and landowners who wish to cull badgers on their land and at their own expense. This proposed cull is aimed at reducing the spread of bovine TB from badgers to cattle.

Licences will only permit culling by cage-trapping and shooting and by the shooting of free-running badgers by trained, competent operators with appropriate firearms licences. Defra ruled out gassing and snaring on the basis that they do not have sufficient evidence to demonstrate that they are humane and effective methods of culling. Whether the general public will allow such a 'mass slaughter' (in their eyes) remains to be seen.



New Scottish snaring guide published

Scottish Minister for Environment, Roseanna Cunningham, attended the launch of the latest guide to snaring in Scotland on September 20. *Snaring in Scotland – A practitioners' guide* was produced by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) Scotland, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) and the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association (SGA) to promote best practice and provide a comprehensive and simple means of keeping within the law.

Snaring is expected to be one of the most controversial issues within the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill currently at stage 1 in the Scottish Parliament. The Bill is proposing that all who use snares will have to have been trained and accredited. A requirement which mirrors the movement in general professional pest control south of the Border. A copy of these new guidelines can be downloaded from the **Pest** website. Go to News.



New guidance on Animal Welfare Act

Recently published is a new Information Note from Natural England which provides guidance on the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and what it means for wildlife. The seven-page, A4 leaflet explains how the Animal Welfare Act applies to all vertebrates. It also outlines the offences under the Act. Of particular relevance are 'unnecessary suffering' and 'administration of poisons'. Download your copy from the **Pest** website News section.



Sniffer dogs for hedgehogs

If you thought training dogs specifically to detect bedbugs was unusual, they are now being used in Scotland's Western Isles in the hunt to find hedgehogs that have been preying on the eggs of native bird populations. The dogs are being used by the Uist Wader Project (UWP) as part of an ongoing drive to rid the Western Isles of the non-native hedgehogs which have caused severe damage to the islands' biodiversity by eating the eggs of internationally important populations of wader birds.

Householders say no to wildlife

A survey by Opinion Matters of 1,007 adults in the UK reveals that almost half no longer feed wild animals (45%) and a third no longer wish to encourage them around their home (32%). It seems people are now less comfortable with the wildlife around them, as a third of people (34%) living in urban areas admitted that their attitude towards local wildlife has been affected by the recent fox maulings. 39% of Londoners admitted they have changed their opinion of wild animals since the incidents and one in five are now afraid of the wildlife in their gardens.



© Lorne Gill/SNH

Stephen Robinson, the Uist Wader Project dog handler and his golden labrador, Misca, on South Uist



Also in the
Kirkmichael Suite

PestControl news

Workshop 11.00 - 12.00

The *Pest Control News* workshop is a well established part of the PestTech experience and one many visitors make a point of not missing.

As we went to press, the subject of this year's event had not yet been announced but we fully anticipate that it will follow the usual pattern and be something topical and maybe even controversial.

Further details will be posted on the *Pest* website and in the PestTech Preview edition of our e-news *Pest+* so watch this space.

Women in pest control

14.00 - 15.00

Sponsored by
Pest Control News

The Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM) group will be holding its second national meeting of the year during PestTech. We hear that the plan this time is to include an expert speaker from outside the industry. However confirmation of precisely what's on offer was not available as we went to press so, once again it's a matter of keeping an eye on our website for further details. All women involved in the pest management industry will be very welcome.



Plan your trip with our quick guide to PestTech

3 November 2010
The National Motorcycle Museum
Birmingham



Practical demonstrations Outside

See and learn from the experts	Morning 3 November	Afternoon 3 November
* One CPD point awarded		
Hawks in pest control presented by Tommy McNally, Envirohawks	09.30 - 09.50	14.30 - 14.50
Long netting* presented by Liam Brinded, Brinded Long Netting	09.50 - 10.10	14.50 - 15.10
Ferretting* presented by John Davison, the National Pest Technicians Association	10.10 - 10.30	15.10 - 15.30
Sprayer calibration* presented by Andrew Shaw, ASPMATS	10.30 - 10.50	15.30 - 15.50

Technical workshops Kirkmichael Suite

Keep up with the technicalities	Morning 3 November	Afternoon 3 November
* One CPD point awarded		
Care and maintenance of pressure sprayers & dusters* presented by Paul Hoyes, Killgerm	09.45 - 10.15	13.15 - 13.45
Risk assessments* presented by Graham Sharman, Rutland Pest Control	-	12.30 - 13.00
Skype for business* presented by Peter Stewart, Aberkil	10.15 - 10.45	15.15 - 15.45

Heat treatment solutions for the pest control industry by Dryair UK – a PestTech first!

Go and see the demonstration	Outside
In addition to two systems on display in the outside area, Dryair UK will have a fully operational system for visitors to view. This will allow you to access a building where treatment is taking place and will incorporate live-time data readings to demonstrate the potential of this technique	Throughout the day
Come and hear the presentation	Wardroom
There will be a 40 minute presentation on the hour, every hour, throughout the day, showing and explaining the many benefits of heat treatment as an effective means of non-chemical pest control.	On the hour, every hour, starting at 09.00 with the last one at 15.00

The Exhibition

Doors open at 09.00
Exhibition closes at 16.00
Three CPD points awarded for attendance

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2 JRCS Falconry | 27 Proctor Bros |
| 3 Bower Products | 28 Vermend |
| 4 Industrial Pesticides | 29 County Workwear |
| 5 Huck Nets | 30 Pest Magazine |
| 6 Airgun Training & Education Organisation | 31 Bell International |
| 8 WaspBane | 32 BASF |
| 9 Roythornes Solicitors | 33 Bradshaw Bennett |
| 10 NPAT | 34 Barretine Environmental Health |
| 11 WF Fountain | 35 Spray Systems |
| 12 Scan Wise | 36 DuPont |
| 13 Lodi UK | 37 International Pest Control |
| 14 Unichem | 38 Killgerm |
| 15 Shenzen Longray Technology | 39 Killgerm |
| 16 P & L Systems Ltd | 40 Animal Artistry |
| 17 /Insect-O-Cutor | 41 Brinded Long Netting |
| 18 Russell Environmental Products | 42 Blattodea Culture Group |
| 19 P & L Systems Ltd | 43 BASIS |
| 20 /Insect-O-Cutor | 45 RSPH |
| 21 SX Environmental Supplies | 46 Riwa/Paragon |
| 22 Agrisense-BCS | 47 PestFriend |
| 23 PelGar | 48 NWTF |
| 24 Bat Conservation Trust | 49 BPCA |
| 25 Allman Sprayers | 50 Brandenburg |
| 26 Bayer Environmental Science | 51 IHS |
| | 52 Killgerm |

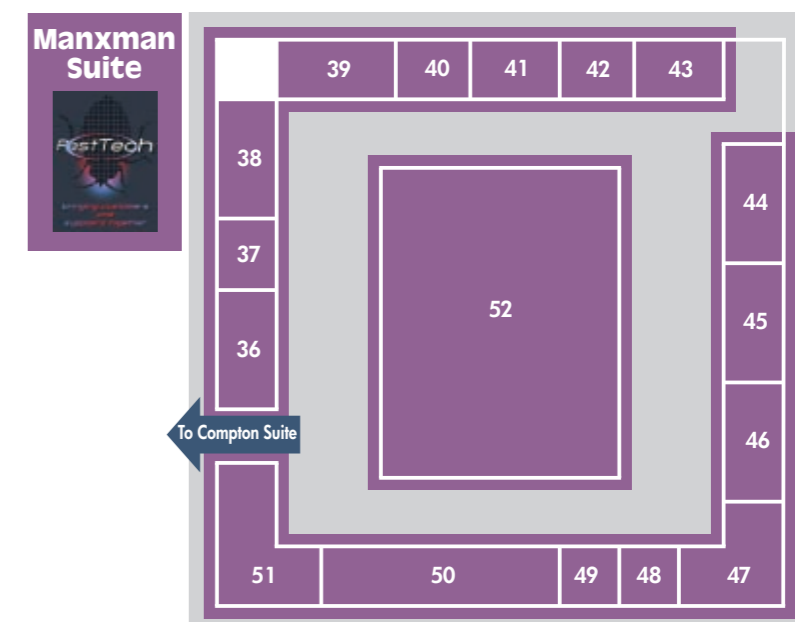
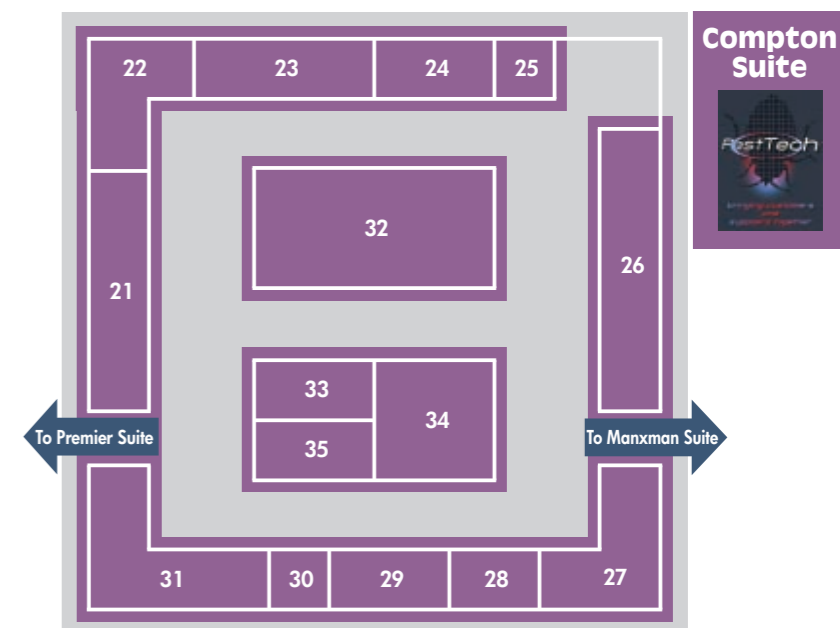
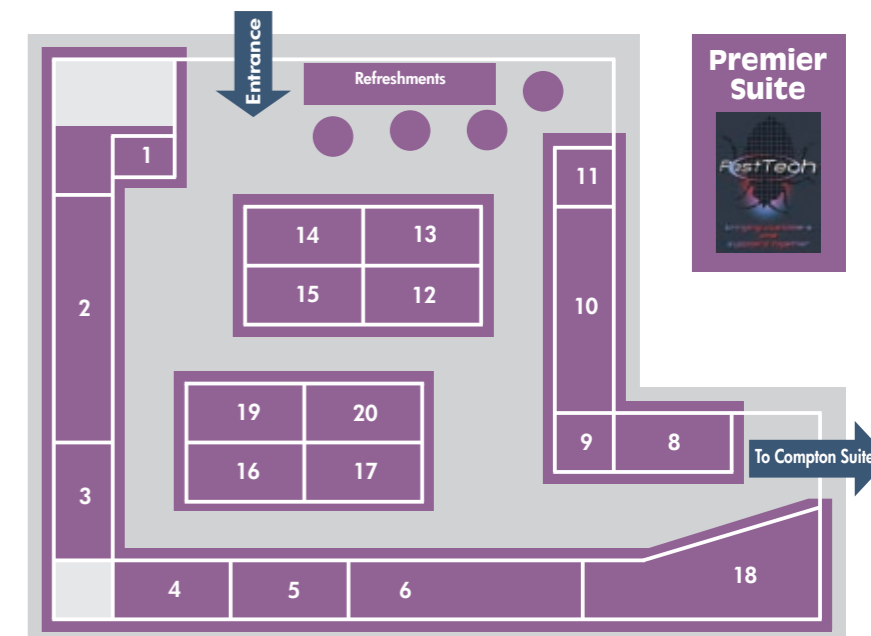
Refreshments

Light refreshments including tea and coffee, sandwiches and pastries are available from the catering stand in the Premier Suite.

For those wanting something more substantial the Museum restaurant on the first floor provides sitdown meals at reasonable prices.

PestTech website

Check-out the most up-to-date details at the dedicated PestTech website at www.pesttech.org.uk



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Traps have proved extremely effective when used on a community-wide basis



Some of the rat tails collected during an outbreak in Chittagong Hill Tract

Battling rodents in Bangladesh

Can pest controllers in the UK learn anything from an ambitious rodent control programme being rolled out in Bangladesh? Surprising perhaps, despite the huge differences in income levels, culture and geographic conditions, when it comes to rodent control there are plenty of similarities between the two countries and, yes, even some useful lessons for pesties in this country too.

The scale of the rodent problem in rural Bangladesh is enormous; far bigger than anything UK pest controllers are ever likely to come across, but the same principles of knowing your enemy, integrating your control methods and, perhaps most important of all, gaining the commitment of the people on the ground, still apply.

Steven Belmain from the University of Greenwich's Natural Resources Institute is one of the UK experts involved in the Bangladesh rodent management project which is being funded by the British government through the Department for International Development's (DIFID) Research Into Use Programme. "The recently elected British government is awash with community action policies to tackle the social ills blighting *Broken Britain* as part of its *Big Society* approach," says Steve. "Interestingly this project on rodent management in Bangladesh has some important lessons for community action projects in both countries. We found that the community-based rodent management action we used actually helps strengthen the community and encouraged the people to tackle other social problems they face."

But, let's get back to the pest control. What

did the researchers find when they first went out to Bangladesh eight years ago.

Bangladesh is a country well used to social problems, often caused by sudden catastrophic events. Rising sea levels, monsoon floods, and cyclones can have dramatic consequences for the world's most densely populated nation. The country's location on the alluvial floodplain basin of the Ganges and Brahmaputra River Delta in South Asia makes for a fertile land. Almost 70% is under active cultivation, with more than 50% of the nation's 160 million people predominantly involved in agriculturally based livelihoods.

A major farm pest

"In this context, it should perhaps come as no surprise that rodents are a major agricultural pest," says Steve. "Our early research was very much focussed on understanding the local ecology and the problems caused by rats."

Much of this work was done in a few villages in the districts of Comilla and Feni, south east of the country's capital, Dhaka. Rat traps were set in different habitats, e.g. rice fields, villages, houses, scrub land, forested areas, to understand what species of rodent could be found, their breeding rates and how they utilised the environment.

"Understanding the local context of the rodent problem and the damage being caused is what good rodent management is all about, whether you're in the UK or Bangladesh," says Steve. "In Bangladesh, rodent damage levels are extremely high. Not only are crops suffering chronic damage and lower yields (routine losses are 5-15%), few houses are rodent proof, meaning that rodents readily enter houses, biting people while they are sleeping, eating and contaminating stored food and undoubtedly transmitting many serious endemic diseases such as typhus and leptospirosis."

The next phase of the research



Why the trapping strategy was chosen

- Rural farmers generally do not understand the difference between acute and chronic poisons, invariably choosing acute because they see dead rodents the next day. Nor do they appreciate how behavioural resistance to acute poisons can develop.
- Rodenticides are relatively expensive for these farming households and they lack the training to use them safely and effectively.
- Kill trap efficacy inside was very high (50-70% per trap night).
- It is the women who are in charge of household activities, including rodent management and they (as opposed to the men who are in charge of rodent management in the field) were easier to bring together for community-wide action.
- Kill traps are more cost-beneficial than rodenticides when measured in the number of rats killed per unit cost, particularly as traps can last many years.
- Daily trapping may be labour intensive, but this is more affordable in developing countries in comparison to regular rodenticide purchases.

DEFEND YOURSELF



EASY TRAP:
P-04078



NEW

3 WAY: P-04031



BED BUGS:
P-04079

NEW



www.geaitaly.com

attempted to synthesise what had been learned about the rats, the environment and the damage to people's livelihoods.

The main rodent species causing damage were identified as *Bandicota bengalensis*, *Bandicota indica*, *Rattus rattus*, *Rattus exulans*, and several species of *Mus*, most notably *M. musculus* and *M. tericolor*. The Asian shrew, *Suncus murinus*, is also widely considered a pest for its role in transmitting the disease leptospirosis as well as household-level damage such as eating chicks and eggs.

Rural farming communities in Bangladesh tend to be arranged as compact villages which are surrounded by rice fields. Farm size is very small, with household plots measuring much less than one hectare on which farmers try to grow three crops a year. Thus fallow periods are generally short (1-3 months during the monsoon), and agricultural land is a mosaic of fields owned by different farmers.

Villages become hotspots

"When put in terms of rodent management, this agro-ecological situation found in Bangladesh has several implications," he explains. "First, rodent breeding is nearly continuous throughout the year. Small farm size also means that rodent control actions by any single farmer are virtually useless. Another important outcome is that the monsoon season reduces harbourage opportunities by putting large parts of the country under water. Our research shows that villages become hotspots for rodent activity during the monsoon as the only place that rodents can find a place to live. However, even outside the monsoon season, rural villages have very high numbers of rodents because each household stores their harvested rice inside non-rodent-proof containers. Using two kill traps set each night in a typical rural house can yield more than 100 rats in a month," he adds.

All this information was used to develop a rodent management strategy based on intensive daily kill trapping inside households.

Such a management strategy is in stark contrast to rodent management in developed countries, where farms are generally much larger and labour costs are much higher, making rodenticide use the cost-beneficial option.

So did it work? The short answer is, YES. Village-wide kill trapping on a daily basis was shown to reduce the rat population by more than 80% within two months, particularly when it was carried out during the monsoon season which naturally prevents inward migration. As an additional benefit, reducing the rat population in the village during the monsoon means that there are fewer animals available to re-colonise the fields when the flood waters subside.

Rolling out the programme

Since developing this successful management strategy the research programme has concentrated on scaling up its activities to try to reach as many communities across the country as possible. "By mid-2011 we expect to have trained 20,000 farmers spread across five districts," says Steve. "Our monitoring of community-based rodent management in Bangladesh has shown it to be remarkably robust and effective in different

regions across the country. The benefits are clear with food loss, structural damage and contamination of stored food all being prevented. There is also a halo effect of village-based control on the surrounding rice fields which suffer less damage.



Bandicota bengalensis, one of the main rodent species causing damage

"What is most promising is that the large majority of communities continue to apply what they have learned long after our training and demonstration activities have ended. Follow-up visits one year later, show that about 70% of communities are still actively trapping. We are trying to get to the bottom of why 30% of communities stop, but so far there doesn't seem to be a single reason for this and often the reasons are quite complex.

The biggest challenges in rolling out intensive household trapping as a rodent management solution in Bangladesh are that it needs good community cooperation and that people generally need to observe the results first-hand before they are willing to "buy in" and invest their own money in its operation.

"If there are too many 'freeloaders', who do not trap themselves, the system breaks down. However, we can overcome these problems through training and by helping a community develop organisational and communication structures. Communities can be brought together in a common cause, e.g. rodent pests which everyone suffers from. We have observed that this approach actually helps strengthen the community to tackle other social problems. Community action clearly works best when there are common problems and the solutions benefit everyone. However, once that spirit of community action has been developed, it seems there is no stopping a community from taking charge."

There's more about this project at www.nri.org/bandicoat



Women are key to the success of the strategy. They are in charge of household management and were easier to bring together for community-wide action

PelGar means business

The only truly British producer and researcher of public health rodenticides has its headquarters and manufacturing operation in Hampshire. But while the UK market is a priority, the company also has global aspirations, as *Pest* editor Frances McKim discovered during a recent visit.



Founding directors, Dr Jonathan Wade (left) and Dr Gareth Capel-Williams show off the purpose-built pasta bait equipment



Driving into a small industrial estate in leafy Hampshire you could be forgiven for not realising you are about to arrive at the headquarters of what is now the only totally British public health rodenticide researcher and manufacturer. Although a relatively new name in the market, PelGar International intends to be here to stay.

The company was only founded in 1995, but the brains behind it have a much longer pedigree. Founding directors Dr Gareth Capel-Williams and Dr Jonathan Wade both have impressive CVs embracing research, consultancy and commerce, including several years spent working in the public health business of multi-national giant ICI/Zeneca (now Syngenta).

But things changed in 1994 when Zeneca decided to integrate its specialist public health team back into its main-stream agrochemicals activities.

Public health and agrochemicals function in two completely different market sectors – they require different approaches, have different products and different formulations. The time was felt to be right for a company dedicated to developing and marketing pesticides specifically to control public health pests.



Purpose-built insecticide testing facilities are located nearby

Gareth and Jonathan's philosophy was, and still is, to combine their extensive theoretical knowledge of pest biology and behaviour, with practical experience gained controlling infestations around the world.

Early years not easy

But the early years of PelGar were not easy. To establish their own products, registrations were required and this takes time; years in fact, which put a strain on cash flow. Fortunately, good relations with Sumitomo led to PelGar being appointed as exclusive agents for Sumitomo products in the European pest control market.

Then, in the late 1990s PelGar gained a number of approvals in the UK and overseas for a range of insecticides. This was followed, in 2001, by approval in the UK for difenacoum, then bromadiolone and brodifacoum. PelGar is now the only UK company to hold complete regulatory dossiers for both the active substances and ready-for-use formulations of all three of these most commonly used anti-coagulant rodenticides.

Having grappled successfully with the 'old registration system,' along came the Biocidal Products Directive (BPD).

"We have invested more than £2 million in

taking our products through the BPD," says Gareth. "PelGar is one of only two companies in Europe that will hold Annex 1 listings for the three key rodenticide substances (difenacoum, bromadiolone and brodifacoum). Equally important, we have developed 14 product formulation dossiers. By doing this we have secured our position as a major player, not only in the UK market, but in the global market-place for years to come."

Novel products

The company is perhaps best known for its brands. In the rodenticide market that's Roban (difenacoum), Rodex (bromadiolone) and Vertox (brodifacoum) – all manufactured in a wide range of formulations from loose grain baits to wax blocks and pasta baits. This gives pest controllers a wide choice of products for every kind of rat or mouse infestation they could be called on to deal with.

Insecticide registrations are based on the synthetic pyrethroids, including alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin, as well as the insect growth regulator, pyriproxyfen with an emphasis on resistance management. Again the brands such as Cimetrol and Stingray are well known.

Jonathan explains: "We use composite formulations for our insecticides. This means we combine several different classes of active ingredients to give greater efficacy and to reduce the risk of pests developing resistance to any one of them."

The success of PelGar has been driven by innovative R&D focussed on producing products for specific end-users and the problems they encounter day-to-day. Following problems in the early days with sub-contracted production, manufacturing is now carried out in-house guaranteeing consistent quality and a flexibility to meet individual orders if required.

A key factor in the development of UK pest control sales is the link, forged in 2002, with distributor, SX Environmental Supplies.

In-house resources

- Alongside the head office functions at Alton in Hampshire, PelGar designs, formulates and manufactures its own wide range of rodenticides.
- The company also manufactures a number of own-label brands for countryside retailers and chains of large DIY superstores.
- A recent addition to the manufacturing facilities is a production line, said to be unique in the UK, dedicated to the manufacture of rodenticide pasta baits.
- PelGar undertakes its own product efficacy testing. Purpose-built insecticide testing facilities are located nearby. PelGar is licensed to carry out rodenticide field trials.

Half of all sales are generated from the UK; the rest from international markets in the Far and Middle East and South America.

However, a new chapter for PelGar is about to open. This autumn sees the introduction of its products in the North American market with the official launch planned for PestWorld 2010. Plans are also in hand to launch in Indonesia.

Continuing growth

So what of the future? Gareth explains: "Our development has very much fallen into three phases. Initially all our resources went into piles of paper – the documents needed to secure our registrations – the creation of our intellectual property which is now the cornerstone of our business. Then we moved onto investing in our people – on the research, production and marketing sides. Our third phase is very much built around developing formulations and offering customer choice."

He continues: "Over the next few years we have the intention and capability to grow very strongly indeed. We have the technical expertise and novel ideas, the required regulatory and safety documentation is in place and we have an efficient manufacturing unit which has financed itself and is not beholden to outside investors."

"We truly believe that we are 'leading the way' in domestic and global pest control, by combining the expertise and ambitions of a multi-national with the flexibility and personal approach of an independent company."



On the commercial side, Nic Blaszkwicz looks after UK sales and marketing



Grant Watt on the Rodex filling line – manufacturing was brought in-house to ensure consistent quality and provide greater flexibility

Facts you may not know about PelGar

- 1 The name – PelGar – comes from its founder's name – Gareth Capel-Williams
- 2 In charge of the insecticide facilities is Jonathan's son – Alex. His secret passion is keeping reptiles.
- 3 The purpose-built pasta bait equipment is based on a tea-bag manufacturing machine.



Watch out! Vodka beetles about

So how did the Vodka beetle get its name?

Turns out that the first specimens were found in 1961 by a Russian entomologist called, guess what? E S Smirnov. It was named after him by Zhantiev. Yes, it's as simple as that!

A domestic pest that's probably more widespread than we think

Do you need to hide your bottles and lock up the drinks cabinet to keep the Vodka beetle at bay? Insect and museum pest specialist David Pinniger provides the answer and speculates that this household pest may be more widespread than we think.

First of all, no it is not necessary to keep your drinks under lock and key, writes David Pinniger, as this insect should really be called 'the brown carpet beetle'. However,

when they were first found in a UK museum back in 1991, Richard Adams identified them as *Attagenus smirnovi* and staff at the museum immediately christened it the Vodka beetle. Much more memorable than the boring 'brown carpet beetle' and giving rise to the reputation that they reach the parts of the museum that other pests do not get.

What are they and why are they pests?

The nearest native UK relative is the two-spot carpet beetle *Attagenus pello* which is common in old houses (and some more modern ones). The larvae often feed on dead insects and are particularly fond of eating cluster flies (See *Pest* magazine Issue 5). However, they will also attack fur and feathers and textiles made of wool.

Vodka beetle adults (left) are distinctly different from the two-spot beetles, the head and thorax are black like two-spot, but there are no patches of white hairs and the wing cases are brown and not black. They vary in size from 3 up to 5mm long. The adults fly very strongly and are attracted to lights. I found dozens of them in ceiling light fittings in one London museum.

The eggs hatch into very small tapered

larvae (right) which moult and grow through a series of stages until they are 10mm long. They are also tapered and covered in bands of hairs which lay flat on the body. There is also a brush of wispy hairs at the back end. The larvae of both species moult regularly and shed striped skins. These shed skins are often found with the larvae on sticky traps. It is exceedingly difficult to tell apart the larvae of Vodka and two-spot beetles and you need the adults to be sure what you have got.

Vodka beetle larvae generally feed on organic detritus containing both animal protein and starch. They will live in dried pet food, cereals and flour and they may occasionally attack botany and zoology specimens and textiles. They normally take one year to complete their life cycle but, if it is hot, there may be more than one generation a year. Once they become established in organic debris in dead spaces, they can be very difficult to eradicate.

More widespread than we think?

Vodka beetles are a common household pest in parts of Scandinavia and were first introduced into the UK in the 1970s. This species does not live outdoors in the UK but they have now become established, and are a major pest, in many museums and houses



Two-spot beetle larvae



Vodka beetle larvae

The larvae of these two species are almost impossible to tell apart. Both species are long with bands of darker hairs. The body is often curved and there is usually a brush of hairs at the back end.

in the London area. Currently Cambridge is the only other city that I know with established infestations. I recently found one specimen in Oxford and I am sure they must be more widely spread.

Infestations of Vodka beetle are nearly always a sign of poor housekeeping and although control of larvae can be achieved with insecticidal and desiccant dusts, it can be very difficult to get the treatments into the

voids where the insects are living.

Now that Vodka beetles are included in the English Heritage Pest poster and also in the Collections Trust book *Pest Management – a practical guide*, we may find out that the species is more widely distributed than we thought. If you are not sure what insect you have got, make sure you check the identity – you might even have Vodka beetles in your own house!



Two-spot carpet beetles (*Attagenus pello*)

- Oval black beetles with a white spot on each wing case
- Patches of white hairs on thorax
- Males smaller than females
- Antennae of male with a long club



Vodka beetles (*Attagenus smirnovi*)

- Oval brown beetles with a black thorax and head
- Wing cases covered with short hairs
- Males smaller than females
- Antennae of male with a long club

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Always read the label. Use pesticides safely

A 'Grand' netting job

Scarborough's impressive Grand Hotel has been spruced up with the installation of Network bird netting after complaints that the noisy birds had been disturbing the guests. General manager David Aylott explains: "We'd had guests who had birds tapping on their windows at four or five in the morning."

As a Grade II-listed building, the council had to approve the plans to fix nets to deter gulls from nesting. A council report highlighted annual nesting of kittiwakes and feral pigeons as causing nuisance to the guests as well as health and safety concerns and damage to the historic building itself. However, the local community was keen to ensure that the ornate façades were not hidden from view.

Kittiwakes mainly affect the East coast and prefer to nest on ledges, whereas most problem gulls choose flat roofs. The birds are difficult to deter as they often use spikes or birdwire to bond their nests onto the building! Correctly fitted netting was the ideal solution as it completely excludes the birds, whilst remaining discreet. It is hoped that measures to deter the birds will encourage them to move to the natural cliffs, a short distance up the coast.

The large scale of the building front meant that scaffolding was prohibitively expensive, but the project was ideal for one of Network's experienced rope work customers, who installed the netting by abseiling the building. Network, now part of P+L Systems, provided expert guidance and product advice before and during the project.



Abseiling proved the best way of installing bird netting on the façade of Scarborough's Grand Hotel. Inset: Before installation, nesting Kittiwakes caused damage and were a nuisance to guests

Can you pass the pest test? Take the Pest Test

BASIS has made 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 articles on rodents, rodenticides and Vodka beetles and complete the questions below.

Try to answer them all in one sitting and without referring back to the articles. **Take care as some questions may have more than one correct answer so tick all the answers 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 credit the CPD points to you.

<p>1 How can rodent control become more efficient and cost effective?</p> <p>a) Make sure bait is placed where rat's are likely to take it <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) Switch to the cheapest bait regardless of its palatability <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) Reduce the number of inspection visits <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) Aim to treat blocks of properties at the same time <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>4 What is the best way to identify a Vodka beetle?</p> <p>a) The larvae which are very distinctive <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) The adults which are very poor fliers <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) The adults' appearance – oval, brown with black thorax & head <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) They are almost always found in the drinks cabinet <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>2 When controlling rats outdoors, what should you do if you suspect difenacoum and bromadiolone are no longer working?</p> <p>a) Increase the amount of bait at each feeding station <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) Increase the number of bait stations <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) Stop applying anticoagulants <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) Switch to single feed products such as brodifacoum or flocoumafen <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>5 Why might Vodka beetles be more widespread than we think?</p> <p>a) Climate change means that they can now live outdoors <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) There has been an increase in Vodka-based drinks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) The adults are very easily confused with the two-spot carpet beetle <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) Pest controllers have not really been looking for them <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>3 What did the French researchers learn about Y139F?</p> <p>a) Bromadiolone is largely ineffective <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) First generation products continue to be effective <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) Rats with this mutation are exceptionally good climbers <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) Rats with this mutation can swim the Channel <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>6 What lessons can British pesties learn from Bangladesh?</p> <p>a) Daily trapping is more cost effective than rodenticides <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) Kill traps are part of an integrated solution <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) Gaining commitment of the people involved is essential <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) Women make the best pest controllers <input type="checkbox"/></p>

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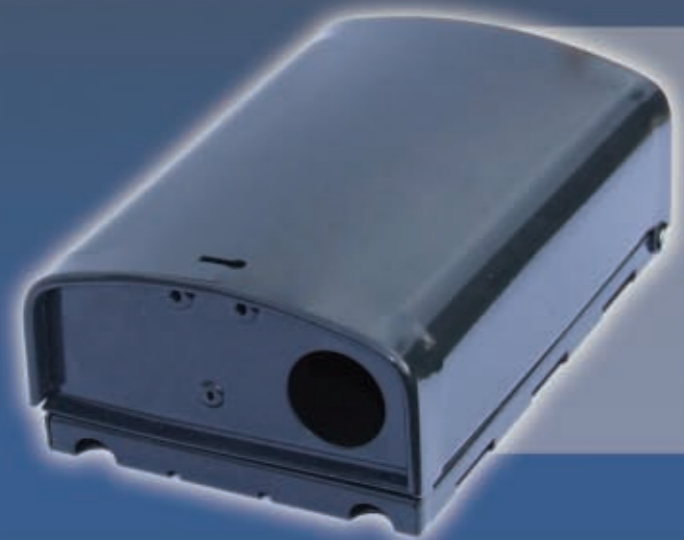
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The station can be secured down through screw holes in the base or by using the wall brackets supplied.

Measures approx. 155 x 104 x 58mm. weighs approx. 0.7kg.

Comes complete with wall fixing brackets and a key.



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NEWS
Best product award

Best new product Time to vote for your favourite

best product award 2010
pest

The nominations have closed and we have 12 fantastic new products shortlisted by **Pest** readers in the first ever **Pest** Best Product of the Year Award.

electronically. To be counted your vote must be in before midnight on 31 October 2010.

So now is the time to have your say. Which product has helped you, as a pest professional, the most? Take a look at the shortlist and then make your selection. You can vote for up to three products using the official postal voting form or go to the **Pest** website and send us your vote

The product which receives the greatest number of reader votes will be announced during PestTech at the National Motorcycle Museum on 3 November and will be featured in issue 12 of **Pest**.

<p>Advion cockroach gel from DuPont</p>	<p>Detex Blox monitoring bait from Bell</p>	<p>Romax Mouse box from Barretine</p>
<p>Aura decorative flykiller from Insect-O-Cutor</p>	<p>K-Othrine Ezi dose dispenser from Bayer</p>	<p>Romax Rat CP rodenticide from Barretine</p>
<p>BB Alert Passive bedbug monitor from Midmos</p>	<p>Maxforce Quantum ant gel bait from Bayer</p>	<p>Snap-E Cover mouse box from Kness</p>
<p>BB Alert Active bedbug monitor from Midmos</p>	<p>Phobi Dose insecticide from Lodi</p>	<p>Vertex whole wheat bait from PelGar</p>

Voting form

The new product(s) which has/have made the largest contribution to my professional working life is/are:

1	2
3	
Name:	Organisation:
Tel:	Email:

SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM to **Pest Magazine, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ**

1 Readers may vote for up to three products, but may only submit one voting form; 2 Manufacturers and their employees cannot vote for their own product; 3 Votes submitted after midnight on 31 October 2010 will not be counted.

For all the legal stuff visit www.pestmagazine.co.uk/content/newsitem.aspx?id=314

best product award 2010
pest

Designed with corners in mind



The 3 Way Trap is a pheromone-based glue trap designed for monitoring *Tribolium* spp. and other crawling stored product insects such as *Tribolium castaneum*, *Tribolium confusum*, *Trogoderma granarium*, *Sitophilus granarius* and *Sitophilus oryzae*.

Ideal, says the manufacturer, for use in food processing factories, mills, warehouse or other areas where flour is produced or stored.

The trap comes ready-to-use, however the pheromone needs to be added prior to placement. One trap should be placed every 10 sqm. The trap has a plastic support base which can be reused – all the technician has to do is change the triangle glue trap on top. It's thin triangular shape means it can fit into narrow spots or into corners.

www.pestcontrolonline.com

Designed to keep rodents out

Designed to stop gnawing and burrowing pests from entering, Xcluder is ideal for use in homes, offices or other buildings which require protection. Unlike wire-wool products, which can rust and decompose, Xcluder is made from stainless steel and poly fibers. It has more 'spring-back' than other pest exclusion products, meaning it fills crevices and stays-put indefinitely.

Xcluder can be cut to any size or shape with ordinary scissors. It is easy to install, by



www.killgerm.com

Simple and cost effective bedbug trap

New to the UK market is this 'Bed Bugs' trap. Developed and manufactured by GEA in Italy, they are available in the UK from SX Environmental Health.

These are easy to use and cost effective glue board traps, designed to monitor bedbugs. They can be used wherever bedbugs occur – in such locations as hotels, hostels, prisons, hospitals or on trains, cruise liners etc. As with other monitors, they can be fitted behind or under the bed, under bedside tables – wherever you would expect to locate this pest. The trap is simple to put together and use. They are light and easy to carry and come 30 to a box.



www.pestcontrolonline.com



Clearly a great idea

Launched last autumn by Barrettine Environmental Health, their Romax mouse box has now been further refined. The box is designed to accommodate the full range of rodents bait types and also has an integrated insect monitor below.

In the upgrade, the false floor to the bait box is now in clear plastic. As explained by Barrettine, the innovative design allows for quick and cost effective insect and rodent monitoring and all in one place.

This new clear design means that technicians can immediately see if any larger pests have been accidentally trapped on the glue pad below.

www.barrettine.co.uk

Precise pinpoint insect targeting

New from Killgerm comes the AF Pinpoint. This offers a secure way of laying bait to target both ants and cockroaches, whilst also protecting the bait against dust and drying-out. The versatile design means the bait station can be positioned on both horizontal and vertical surfaces – exactly where insects roam.

When fixed vertically, optional extra sticky pads are required, and the 'pointer' must be directed upwards.

A small amount of the ant/cockroach gel bait can then be introduced through the small aperture on the front cover of the station.

www.killgerm.com



New pack sizes for diatomaceous earth

An environmentally-friendly non-toxic inert powder, diatomaceous earth is derived from naturally occurring fossilised shells of ancient aquatic algae (diatoms). It is making something of a come-back, particularly for use with bedbug management. It kills insects by dehydration.

New pack sizes have just been introduced. As a 3kg tub from Killgerm and as a 4kg tub from Barrettine.



www.barrettine.co.uk

www.killgerm.com

Small and perfectly formed

The Microbait tamper-resistant and vandal-proof steel mouse bait station is once again on the market.

Made of powder-coated steel, the Microbait mouse bait station has a removable plastic liner that accommodates all types of bait.

This makes it ideal, says manufacturer Rat Pak Engineering, for use in food preparation and public areas. It comes with top key entry and a reliable locking mechanism, so making the Microbait quick and easy to service. It can be secured down using screw holes in the base, or by using the wall brackets supplied.



www.ratpak.co.uk

Extended approvals for two Bayer products

Maxforce LN, the recently launched granule gel bait station for black ant control, has now been granted approval for use in lawns. This is in addition to the existing approval for use in and around domestic housing, commercial and industrial premises. Developed specifically for black ants, Maxforce LN ant bait consists of sugar and honey combined with the active ingredient, imidacloprid.

Also with an extended approval is Quickbayt. This paint-on granular bait formulation for rapid control of flies has been granted approval for indoor use where waste is stored. This approval is in addition to the existing approval for use in animal units or agricultural buildings.



www.pestcontrol-expert.com

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Smidge offers immediate, powerful, waterproof protection against midges, mosquitoes, horse flies, sand flies, fleas and ticks. Applied directly to skin, Smidge works by throwing insects off your scent whilst emitting a human-friendly fragrance. It offers immediate, powerful, waterproof protection for up to eight hours. It comes in a robust and powerful 75ml aluminium pump spray.

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Mr D Haskins
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Warmley
Bristol
BS30 8TY

Dear Dave

RE: Romax Rat CP

As a keeper of chickens, ducks and geese, our property is at threat from infestations of rats.

With the recent turn in weather, coinciding with the local harvesting we noticed the tell tail signs of harbours in a dry brook leading to the chicken pens.

I have not used Rat CP before and so thought I would take the opportunity to try something new - I thought I would write to say I am very glad that I did.

Assessing that it would be a light infestation, I applied six of the soft block formulation on the Tuesday afternoon, directly into the runs the rats were using and obviously out of reach from any non-targets. I am not sure how this affect neophobia, but the next morning all the bait applied had been removed.

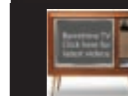
I reappplied with equal amount and, again the following morning it had all been removed, I repeated the process on Thursday evening. I was exceptionally impressed to find on Friday morning a dead rat - directly in the run that it had created and one that I can only assume was on a return trip for more CP.

It is not often I am moved to comment on a product or service, but the process of using the formulation and speed of control is of note.

I hasten to conclude that we are now rat free, so assume that the others died under ground.

From first hand experience, congratulations on a fantastic product. Your service in setting up the account and delivering from an email order was also first class.

Kind regards



See the Sky TV feature on Rat CP
www.barrettine.tv

Nominated for PEST best new product award- your vote would be appreciated as we continue to demonstrate that there's now a new approach available for Rat control in the UK!



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Conference round-up

Gloomy air in Telford

This annual Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's (CIEH) conference – *Best of the Best* was held between 21-23 September. It had moved from its previous venue in Nottingham to the Telford International Centre. Whether it was the move, or just a reflection of the general state of mind in the local authority sector, who knows but the mood of all involved was somewhat gloomy.

Delegate numbers were well down – in the region of 250 compared with nearer 350 last year – and there were nearly ten fewer exhibitors on display.

All present seemed only too aware that the shutters may be coming down on 20 October – the forecasted day for the government's spending review announcement. Opening the conference, Alan Higgins, CIEH chairman, welcomed delegates but went on to explain that in preparation for the likely cuts, CIEH had already established a consultancy arm, dedicated to advising local authority members on how to maintain services with reduced budgets.

Likewise, Sarah Appleby, head of enforcement, local authority delivery division for the already slimmed-down Food Standards Agency, said they aimed to deliver higher standards with fewer resources. She declared: "We are at the end of gold plating regulations."

On behalf of the National Pest Advisory Panel (NPAP) Jonathan Peck outlined the results of the latest pest control survey – a survey which shows the further diminishment of local authority pest control activities – see page 13.

On a lighter, yet highly worrying note, media consultant Lisa Ackerley, described her undercover experiences for programmes such as BBC's *Watchdog*, exploring the visible and invisible, health hazards at some of the world's more exotic locations. If anything was to put you off holidaying abroad this was it – good job we will all only have the necessary finances to holiday at home!

Chicago fiery – not windy

If Telford was gloomy, by all accounts the recent *North American Bedbug Summit* held in Chicago was fiery. Patronised by a capacity audience in excess of 360 pest controllers and stakeholders they whipped themselves up almost to a technical frenzy. How were they to control this ubiquitous pest? Opinions differed. Heated ideas were exchanged. One thing for certain – this will not be the last we hear, or see, about bedbugs.

Indicative of the level of concern, the US trade association (NPMA) published its pandemic bedbug response plan



Lisa Ackerley



Sarah Appleby

immediately after the event. This aims to lead the industry's actions in addressing this growing crisis. Amongst the actions listed is a Blue Ribbon bedbug task force, the adoption of a new, wide ranging company bedbug accreditation programme, plus the hosting of a spring global bedbug summit in Europe. We await the announcement of further details with interest.

Sanity prevails at Parasitec 2010

If this is all too much for you, go to Parasitec between 17-19 November in Paris. Over 60 predominantly European exhibitors will gather at the Cité des Sciences. In addition to the exhibition, there are two days of presentations from leading authorities on topical issues. New this year is an area designated to pest control start-up organisations, as well as a full-scale demonstration area to be used as a treatment display location. See www.parasitec.org.



Why not try Parasitec in November? It's close to home and there will be plenty of familiar faces



By all accounts delegates got 'hot under the collar' when discussing bedbugs in Chicago

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PARC DE LA VILLETTE

PARIS
november
17th- 18th- 19th
2010

REFERENCE
Diary dates

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DAY	EVENT	VENUE	FIND OUT MORE
3	PestTech 2010	National Motor Cycle Museum, Birmingham	www.pesttech.org.uk
3	Pest Control News dinner	Windmill Village Hotel	editor@pestcontrolnews.com
17-19	Parasitec 2010	Cité des Sciences & de l'Industrie, La Villette, Paris, France	www.parasitec.org
17-19	FAOPMA 2010	SMX Convention Centre, Manila, Philippines	www.peaponline.com/
18	SOFHT Annual Lecture & Lunch	The Savoy, London	www.sofht.co.uk
24	Pest Control in Housing seminar	World of Glass, St Helens	npap@cieh.org
2011 MARCH	16-17 Disinfestare 2011	Palazzo dei Congressi Riccione, Italy	www.disinfestando.it
APRIL	6-7 PestEx 2011	ExCel, London	www.pestex.org
MAY	18-20 ConExPest	Kracow, Poland	www.conexpest.pl
AUGUST	7-10 7 th International Conference on Urban Pests	Ouro Preto, Brazil	www.icup2011.com

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