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Issue 48
December 2016 & January 2017

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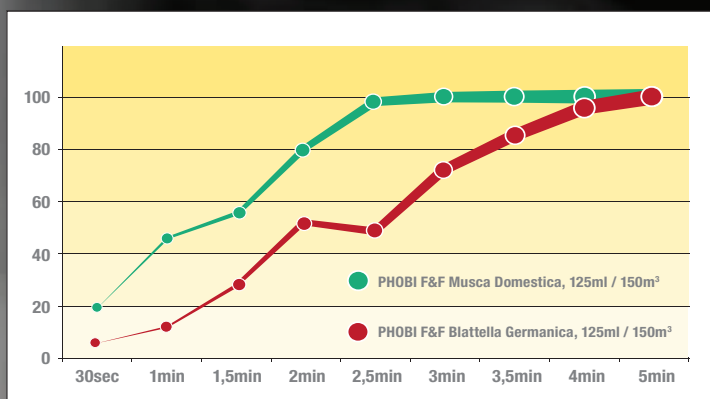
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As the industry's only independent magazine, **Pest** aims to deliver a mix of unbiased news, impartial advice and topical technical features. We are committed to being as inclusive as possible covering every sector of the pest management industry.

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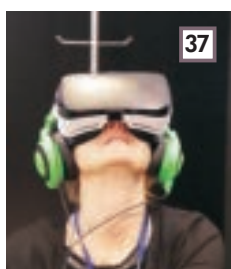
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Ready for a well-earned rest

Well, what a busy autumn it's been here in the **Pest** office, or, more accurately, out of the **Pest** office, as we seem to have spent more time travelling and attending events than we have at our desks! It's been great to meet so many readers and, speaking with many of you, it seems you too have been rushed off your feet this autumn.

Of course, the wonders of modern communications mean we can pretty much work anywhere so we've just about been able to keep on schedule with our **Pest**⁺ e-news, web stories and now the final magazine of 2016. A new initiative in it offers an extra opportunity to collect more PROMPT CPD points. We've teamed up with Syngenta to produce a technical review of bed bugs and their control and set up a special extra **Pest Test** online for you to complete. Talking of CPD, one of the consequences of being so busy was that we got behind in inputting CPD points from previous **Pest Tests**. However, by the time you read this, we expect to have cleared the backlog.

This issue is also the first of 2017 as our next edition will not be until February 2017 when we will be previewing another international event, PestEx 2017.

So as Christmas approaches we are probably all looking forward to a well earned rest. Happy Christmas to all our readers and advertisers. We look forward to bringing you more news, views and technical reports in 2017.

Frances Hahn

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Posh new vehicles for JG

Iver-based JG Pest Control has recently taken delivery of 24 spanking new, sign-written vans supplied by professional fleet suppliers, Fraikin. These consist of 10 Renault Kangooos and 14 Renault Traffics and represent replacements for older vehicles, plus additions.

Fraikin has taken over ownership, financing, compliance and maintenance of the new vehicles – removing all the hassle for JG Pest Control who currently operate 70 commercial vehicles spread across much of England.



PestEx 2017 bursting at the seams

Following a complete sell out of exhibition space, event organisers, BPCA, has had to work with ExCel to incorporate extra stands to meet exhibitor demand at PestEx 2017. The event takes place on 22 and 23 March at its traditional venue, the ExCel Centre in London Docklands.

BPCA chief executive, Simon Forrester commented: "Manufacturers from across the globe clearly see PestEx as the place to launch new products and servicing companies know they can pick up details on all the key innovations, research and best practice. So to meet this demand we have squeezed more stands into our exhibition hall at ExCel."



Applicateur3D

At the Parasitec exhibition we were delighted to meet Robert Moon. Robert is the only British pest controller with the Certibiocide qualification that allows him to work as a professional pest controller in France, or, as his card says, he is an Applicateur3D – Dératisation Désinsectisation Désinfection.

Those readers who watch the *One Show* on BBC 1 may recognise him as he made an appearance a few weeks back to talk about Asian hornets after their recent incursions into the UK.

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Rentokil wins digital award...

Rentokil Initial with PA Consulting has won the award for Best Internet of Things Project of the Year in the UK IT Industry Awards 2016 run by The Chartered Institute for IT and Computing. The winners were presented with the award at a gala evening event held at the Battersea Park Events Arena, London on 16 November.

The award was for the Rentokil PestConnect Service, an online connected system, which provides real-time continuous 24/7 monitoring, rapid response and protection against rodent pests with real-time reporting, all via myRentokil. As with several of the other systems now on the market, when a RADAR (Rodent Activated Detection And Riddance) unit is activated by a mouse, a message is transmitted via text to a Rentokil technician alerting them immediately to the issue. The customer is notified at the same time via email and the event is recorded on myRentokil customer portal. In the field, Rentokil has over 20,000 digital devices running in 12 countries which together have sent over three million pieces of data.

... and also rockets up the ranks

In the league table of Britain's Most Admired Companies 2016 released on 1 December, Rentokil Initial came in for special attention as the company had rocketed up 133 places to land in 25th spot. In the table, Rentokil rubs shoulders with the likes of such other household names as Unilever, Royal Dutch Shell, easyJet and Aldi (UK).

Across all divisions, Rentokil employs around 31,000 people, has a turn-over of £978.1m and an adjusted pre tax profit of £98.3m.

The league table is put together by the Leeds Business School and *Management Today*.

New pest control industry awards launched

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) has drawn together those awards which it has presented over many years, added some new categories and launched the whole scheme as the British Pest Management Awards (BPMAs).

The aim of the BPMAs is to celebrate those who go the extra mile to portray a positive image of the pest management industry regarding public health, food safety, environmental sustainability and economic significance.

The inaugural awards evening will be held at the O2 Arena's Brooklyn Bowl on 22 March 2017 (the middle night of PestEx 2017), as part of the British Pest Control Association's 75th anniversary dinner.

Those set the task of acting as judges include a range of independent bodies and individuals from across the industry, including **Pest** editor, Frances McKim.



Jonathan Peck receives posthumous award

At PestWorld in Seattle in October (see page 38), Jonathan Peck was posthumously awarded the Global Ambassador Award by the National Pest Management Association (NPMA). Making the announcement NPMA president Chuck Tindle explained that Jonathan's passion for the industry was clear to anyone who met him. He said: "In 2013 the pest management industry lost a genuine supporter."

Accepting the award on Jonathan's behalf were Killgerm's Rupert Broome and Sabra Everett. Rupert explained how Jonathan had started his journey in pest control in 1976 with one small business, in one place: "That business now operates on four continents through seventeen operating companies. He could have sold it for millions but instead he chose to leave it in an employee benefit trust so that his legacy is a company that continues to benefit of all its employees."

Commenting on the award, Rupert added: "It is a great honour to receive the Global Ambassador Award on the behalf of Jonathan and a tribute to the fantastic legacy he has left both to the Killgerm Group and to the industry."



NPMA president elect Bryan Cooksey (centre) with Sabra Everett and Rupert Broome

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New Level 3 award released by RSPH

RSPH has just obtained approval from Ofqual (the Government's Regulator in England for Awarding Organisations) for the RSPH Level 3 Award in Pest Management.

The qualification can be delivered by approved centres from 1 January 2017. It replaces the RSPH Level 3 Diploma in Pest Management. The Diploma was widely regarded as the 'gold standard' for pest controllers to aspire to, but due to the large investment in time required for its successful completion very few candidates actually achieved it. The new Level 3 Award is a much smaller qualification than the Diploma which it replaces, meaning that it can be completed in a much shorter time, but the assessment is just as rigorous.

This new qualification is aimed at experienced pest control technicians who wish to progress within the industry. To enrol candidates must already hold a recognised Level 2 qualification in pest control.

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Congratulations

Best new product award winners



Agrilaser Autonomic from PestFix has been voted the best new product 2016 by **Pest** readers. The coveted **Pest** Best Product Award trophy was presented to PestFix at the PestTech event. Pictured above, from left, are the delighted Matt England, Matt Hamilton and Dan England from PestFix.

In joint second place in the readers' vote were two products from Pelsis; the Aura Black electric flykiller from the Insect-O-Cutor range and SX Dotz insect gel bait platform from the Pelsis-owned distributor, Edialux. Pictured top right with the certificate are Tim Peeling and Amy Frith from Pelsis.

In third place was another great bird management innovation, the Defender Post & Wire Holder system from Jones & Son. Pictured collecting the certificate is the company's Jazmin Smith.

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Pest identification winners



Lewis Jenkins of Check Services, above centre, collects the Agrilaser Handheld Bird Dispersal Laser, kindly donated by PestFix as first prize in our identify the pest competition (see **Pest** issue 45: August & September 2016). He is flanked by Dan (left) and Matt England. Lewis correctly named the great spotted woodpecker as the cause of the damage to a Devon longhouse. A special **Pest** award for humour of a soft cuddly green woodpecker (the great spotted soft toy was sold out!) went to Dave Nubel of Protec. Dave described the culprit as a 'myopic woodpecker' and for treatment he recommended 'an appointment with avian Specsavers!' Dave is pictured with **Pest** associate editor, Helen Riby.



Special international award



The **Pest** Best Product Award recognises innovation in the UK market. This year, for the first time, **Pest** decided to make a special award to a product primarily voted for by international readers – Aquatain liquid mosquito film from the BL Group. Stefano Scarponi was delighted to receive this unexpected accolade at Parasitec. Aquatain is sold in the UK by Barretts.

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Farewell to Kevin

The end of 2016 sees the end of an era, as Kevin Brown hangs-up his Rentokil Products boots and retires. But not one to sit at home with his feet up, Kevin is launching a new business turning his hobby into his job by offering horticultural and garden design services. Kevin came into pest control eight years ago, following a 30 year career in the paint industry, quickly moving into the role representing Rentokil Products in the professional sector. He also served as a key player in the RAMPS-UK team and as a member of the BPCA manufacturers and distributors committee. He is pictured below, centre, with colleagues Pauline Kearns and Jim Kirk.

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Giles Dormor joins Acheta

The latest addition to the Acheta Consulting team is Giles Dormer. He comes with plenty of practical experience trouble shooting, training and auditing within the food industry. Giles has spent the last 14 years as the group's pest management expert within Hovis, Rank Hovis McDougall and Premier Foods.



He has his roots in pest control, having started his career as a field biologist with Terminix Peter Cox in 1993, before moving to ADAS as a pest management consultant.

Additional communications resource at BPCA

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) has appointed a new communications officer, Scott Johnstone, to support its ongoing internal and external marketing and communications commitments. Scott will be working alongside Ben Massey.

Scott comes to the BPCA from the engineering sector with a marketing background. He has also worked as a freelance writer for numerous technology, engineering and not for profit organisations.



A duo of awards for Cleankill



Surrey-based Cleankill Environmental Services has been named 'Best Company for Staff Training and Development' and 'Best Green Business' at the 2016 Croydon Business Excellence Awards.

Director Jon Whitehead, above left, explains: "Without staff there is no Cleankill. Because our staff are well-trained and understand the ethos of the business, when they go out and meet customers, they project the right image to promote our business. By investing in them we have an incredibly low staff turnover rate, meaning our customers get to know and trust their technicians."

Being green isn't something people naturally associate with pest control, but Cleankill is proud to have always been at the forefront of environmentally responsible pest control. Managing director, Paul Bates, above right, added: "I know it sounds counterintuitive for a pest control company to be voted 'Best Green Business' but, for Cleankill Pest Control, reducing our carbon footprint and our dependence on toxic substances, along with championing effective alternatives to harmful chemicals, is one of the reasons we started our pest control company."

Joe lands key role at PROMPT



Professional register BASIS PROMPT has appointed Joe Mott as its new co-ordinator. Joe is the key contact point for all readers with queries about their CPD points.

University graduate Joe, aged 21, took over the administrative role from Jack Moore, who left the organisation in September. He studied business and marketing at Sheffield Hallam University and lives in Allestree, Derby.

1env strengthens export team



Distributor 1env has appointed Patrick de Vos as its international business development manager to further develop the company's export business.

Patrick has a wealth of experience on the international scene having worked in a similar capacity for the last six years, including time as managing director of Makesafe International, plus three years with Pelsis, also in international sales.

Helen Ainsworth switches to BASF

Having held the post of technical training manager for Barretine Environmental Health for the last five years, Helen has switched responsibilities, joining BASF as their new UK northern sales manager. Helen has been involved with professional pest control all her working life having had spells with Certis (before it withdrew from pest control), Luxan, Forward Environmental Services and Rentokil Pest Control.

She has also served as treasurer for RAMPS (UK) and was a member of the BPCA Executive Board.



Seamus Butler to head-up Octavius Hunt

Bristol-based Octavius Hunt, the innovative smoke-delivered pesticide manufacturer, has a new managing director, Seamus Butler.

Seamus has an entrepreneurial background, his most recent role was as MD in a telecommunications service provider, a business he sold in 2015. He brings that mind-set to his new role saying: "Octavius Hunt is a respected company with a proud history and I'm keen to use my business experience to help it grow and develop."



Simon scoops national award



Simon Forrester is congratulated by BPCA president, Paul Rodman

The British Pest Control Association's (BPCA) chief executive, Simon Forrester, has been named chief executive of the year in the UK Association Awards. Damian Hutt, executive director at the Association of Association Executives and one of the judges of the competition, said: "With only a small team and some effective initiatives, Simon has transformed the BPCA into a modern, relevant and progressive organisation.

Simon said: "I'm delighted and honoured to win such a prestigious award, which is a massive boost for the BPCA. It's a reflection of the success of the organisation and also the professionalism, hard work and dedication of the entire team."

Alan Morris is Bayer country head

Following the sale of Bayer Garden to French firm SBM Développement, the Bayer Environmental Science team has been re-structured and will now solely focus on professional turf, amenity and pest control solutions. It will remain at the Cambridge Science Park.

Promoted to lead this group is Alan Morris who becomes country head.

Alan has worked within the pest control sector for just under 20 years and has been extensively involved with BPCA, NPTA and CRRU.



New marketing manager for Russell IPM

Elitsa Seymour recently joined Deeside-based Russell IPM as its new marketing manager. Elitsa comes with plenty of experience, as her background is in marketing strategy and brand management for small to medium size companies.

She is passionate about the environment and runs the Chester pay-as-you-feel (PAYF) café that is part of The Real Junk Food Project Charitable Foundation.

Once a month, Elitsa and her young family cook with ingredients that would otherwise go to waste. These are donated to her community interest café by large supermarkets. This all prevents food waste and gives cooked meals to the community.



Barrettine gains a divisional MD

Joanne Crowell has joined Barrettine Environmental Health as divisional managing director. Joanne will be working closely with Charles Phillips, commercial director, and David Haskins, sales director, to continue the organisation's businesses growth in its target markets.

Joanne has worked in the pesticide industry for many years, predominantly in the agrochemical sector. This included spells with Glendale Horticulture as commercial operations director and, before that, 18 years with Agrii, the agronomy services company.



Toxic to reproduction

what does it mean for pest professionals?

EU Member States have accepted the recommendation of scientific advisers to reclassify the active substances in anticoagulant rodenticides as 'toxic to reproduction'. Whether you agree with the decision, or not, is immaterial. It's happened! Associate editor Helen Riby reports.

May harm the unborn child, it is difficult to think of five words in the English language with more emotional impact, yet these five words will soon find their way onto many professional rodenticide labels. These disturbing words will be accompanied by the exploding heart warning symbol. Why will this happen? It is because all nine rodenticide active substances approved in the EU (that's brodifacoum, bromadiolone, chlorophacinone, coumatetralyl, difenacoum, difethialone, flocoumafen, warfarin and warfarin sodium) have been reclassified as toxic to reproduction.

Pest wrote about the then expected reclassification of rodenticides as 'toxic to reproduction' in **Pest** Issue 43: February & March 2016. In June, the EU Member States met and accepted the recommendation from the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) to reclassify rodenticide actives. There will be a transition period with different deadline dates for making available on the market and using up stocks.

In summary, any rodenticide product with an active substance concentration of 30 ppm or more has been reclassified as 'toxic to reproduction'. No product classed this way can be sold to amateurs and professional use products will have to carry the warning symbol and the 'May harm the unborn child' wording on their labels. Currently, all rodenticide products on the UK market (except for Bayer's Rodilon range which contains difethialone) have concentrations above this limit.

The topic made the agenda at this year's *Pest Control News (PCN)* workshop at PestTech where Killgerm's Dr Matt Davies, wearing his *PCN* technical editor's hat, predicted that many manufacturers will re-formulate their products and offer lower concentration products, without the reprotox label, alongside their existing ranges.

View from across the Channel

It made another appearance in the seminars at the French event, Parasitec, in mid-November. Bertrand Montmoreau of the French trade association, 3D, pointed out that, whilst there may be a transition period for relabelling and so on, since the publication of the 9th ATP (Adaptation to Technical Progress) this summer, the reclassification is now public. He warned that employers and users of these products cannot continue to behave as if nothing has happened saying: "What if an employee or a customer's employee has a baby with a



H360D May damage the unborn child

problem? You must be able to justify your use of these products and implement any necessary employee health surveillance."

There was no mention of any such concerns at the *PCN* workshop but, as we are still part of Europe, it might be something you need to check with your Health and Safety specialist or trade association.

Opinion divided

In general there is a great deal of uncertainty about what the reaction of pest professionals will be. One comment from the *PCN* workshop, that, if someone had eaten the bait, they would have far more to worry about than what impact it might have on the unborn child, was amusing and, indeed, 100% correct. But maybe it missed the point? Yes, the reclassification is about the intrinsic hazard of these materials and nothing to do with the risk of any harm occurring, but will customers be happy having a product labelled this way on their premises, or in their homes?

At PestTech opinion was divided. Some thought it would be business as usual taking the line that, if a service operation is conducting the proper risk assessments, using the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) and following the label, then why wouldn't they still use 50 ppm baits? Others took the opposite view. Yet others felt that it will be pressure from customers that will force the hands of the servicing companies. There are no definitive answers.

We asked the rodenticide manufacturers for their thoughts on reclassification. How will it



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Brady Hudson of Bell Laboratories

impact the industry and what action will pest controllers need to take?

Doubts about efficacy

Syngenta confirmed that the higher concentration products (50 ppm) with the new warning labels will continue to be on the market and available for use by trained professionals. However, they pointed out that reducing the anticoagulant active substance level to below 30 ppm, to avoid the need for relabelling, will mean that the less potent FGARs will no longer be an option. They simply won't work at such low concentrations. The company also felt that some of the lower potency SGARs may also be under pressure to perform at concentrations below 30 ppm but they wanted to reassure pest professionals that they are working hard in the changed regulatory environment to make sure they can fulfil their customers' needs.

Brady Hudson from Bell Laboratories commented: "No doubt many manufacturers are re-assessing their active substances and possibly reformulating to produce rodenticides that will fall outside of the toxic to reproduction classification. Some of the stronger active ingredients will have an effect at reduced concentration, for example, there is already a well established product, difethialone, that is very effective at 25 ppm. The more potent brodifacoum will likely make an appearance at reduced concentration, so there will still be product choice and a way of controlling rodents."

"Unfortunately, with documented widespread resistance, the less potent products such as difenacoum and bromadiolone, may not be effective at reduced concentration levels. I am fairly certain there will be confusion surrounding the classification among pest control professionals, let alone their client base. At this stage, however, it is important not to panic. As and when products hit the



Nic Blaszkowicz from PelGar International

distributors' shelves clear advice and training will be available," she advised.

PelGar's Nic Blaszkowicz agreed that there are likely to be some very confused pest controllers out there. He was, however, more reassuring about reduced concentration products, which, he felt, would be effective in the right circumstances. Such products will all have to go through the regulatory system so there will have to be data on efficacy.

He said: "Firstly pest controllers should rest assured that 25 ppm baits will be effective but they will need to understand the difference in toxicity between the actives, which will be magnified at lower concentrations."

"With product stewardship in mind, having access to baits at lower concentrations could be a good thing."

Nic also pointed out that the other major consideration is where the baiting is taking place. Some areas, for example around buildings, or in sewers, or waste dumps, are much less sensitive, so in these areas there's no reason not to stick with 50 ppm product.

"One thing we don't want to happen is for people to shy away from rodenticide use altogether and for problems to develop beyond controllable levels."

As a simple guide he suggested:

- **Non-sensitive areas** – stick with 50 ppm and use the hierarchy of multi-feed difenacoum/bromadiolone first, with single feed products as last resort.
- **Sensitive areas** – 25 ppm all the way with difenacoum for mice, bromadiolone for rats and the single feeds at 25 ppm as the last resort.

Bayer already has an established range of 25 ppm rodenticide products. Marketed under the Rodilon brand these all contain the active substance difethialone and will not



Richard Moseley from Bayer

be reclassified as toxic to reproduction.

Bayer's technical manager Richard Moseley explained: "Rodilon is already being used successfully for rodent control 'in and around buildings'. The range came onto the UK market six years ago formulated at this reduced level. It comes in four different baiting options and is a single feed treatment."

He continued: "The prediction is that the amateur market will be directly affected as products will not be available to amateur users above the 30 ppm threshold. Amateur products will need to be re-formulated at the lower concentration and consequently there could be a concern about their efficacy and the impact on potential tolerance."

"That could be good for professionals – encouraging more domestic business – but could also exacerbate the situation, where for example, treatment of a domestic infestation by an amateur user is unsuccessful and the pests have developed tolerance and behavioural resistance, meaning they may be harder to treat when the professional is inevitably called in."

"In any case a re-education will be needed, because at lower concentrations, rodents may have to eat more of the bait, so treatments and return visits will need to be more frequent."

Doubts about acceptability

"The concern for professional pest controllers is whether sites they currently treat are going to be happy to have products used with this warning on the label. Employers must pay special attention to vulnerable groups and pregnant women fall into that category. If an employer is adhering closely to Health and Safety Legislation then this additional warning may cause them some concern, especially if they are being audited very closely, as in the case of food manufacturers, for instance," he concluded.

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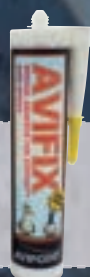
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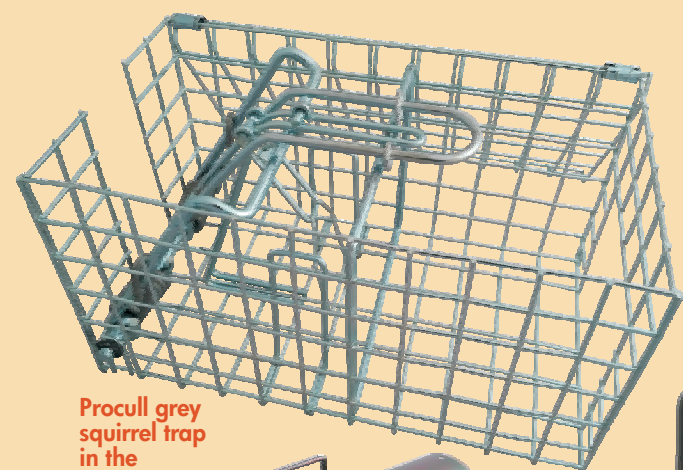
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Trapping resurgence

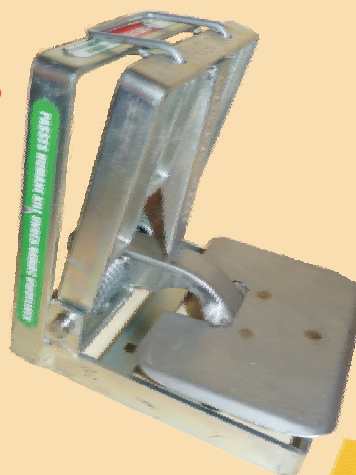


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Koro rodent trap



GoodNature A24 rat & stoat trap



Talpid mole trap

Trapping, so long the 'Cinderella' of pest control, is again a main stream activity – a set of skills essential for even urban pesties. Changes in perception of biocide use on several fronts have driven this change, along with technical developments both in terms of the traps that are available and how they can be monitored. In this article we explore how trapping is regulated, how that regulation may develop in the near future and why trapping has moved up the agenda as well as some recent developments.

'Even rats have rights'. Several pieces of legislation tell us what can and cannot be done before we even arrive at thoughts of what traps can be used.

Trapping legislation remains complex, but it is fair to say that, thus far, it has 'fitted' developments, rather than led them.

The Protection of Animals Act 1911

This legislation introduced the concept that traps must be inspected regularly, with a requirement that spring traps set for the control of rabbits and hares (no, there are no traps approved for trapping hares!) had to be inspected at least once a day between 'the hours of sunrise and sunset'.

The Pests Act 1954

This is a piece of legislation primarily concerned with enhancing the effectiveness of rabbit control, it nevertheless addressed the lack of discrimination of traditional 'gin traps' and their inhumaneness. The Act making it a requirement that rabbit traps should be approved with the aim of killing the animal quickly and that the traps must only be set within the rabbit hole.

The Pests Act 1954 also became the 'home' of the Spring Traps Approval Order, the statutory instrument that defines what spring

*Procul, WCS & Goodnature traps courtesy of Fourteenacre
DOC 150 and Koro traps, courtesy of Perdix*

traps are approved for use and lists which target animals they can be used against.

The Order has recently been tightened to require that, even when used against their assigned target species, approved traps must be used in a manner that minimises risk to non-target animals. Although the Spring Traps Approval Order goes back more than 60 years, it is regularly reviewed; the latest update being published this year.

Rodents and spring traps

Are break-back traps 'spring traps'? Technically yes, after all they kill by impact created by the tension in a spring. Legally, however, rat and mouse 'snap-traps' and traps designed to kill moles in their runs; were exempted from the need for approval by way of the Small Ground Vermin Traps Order 1958. This Order is also made under the Pests Act 1954, and the exemption holds good today.

It does NOT, however, cover other spring traps or impact traps that may be used for rodent, or other animal control, and many such traps are listed in the Spring Traps Approval Order.

There are welfare standards in place for all spring traps except for the exempted rat, mouse and mole traps. It is a valid concern that some of these exempted traps are poorly designed or are being 'engineered down' to the extent that they do not kill quickly. They may also deteriorate with repeated use to the point that they will not kill quickly. It remains to be seen whether this 'loop hole' will be closed.



Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

In more recent years the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, banned a number of pest control practices and traps, for example self-locking snares.

This act is also responsible for the curiosity that, once trapped, a grey squirrel cannot be released back into the environment. Grey squirrels are still classed as a 'non-native' species.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 reinforces the concept that an animal in a live trap is 'under the control of' the trapper and he/she is responsible for the trapped animals' welfare, until killed or released.

Impact of rodenticide stewardship

With the advent of the Rodenticide Stewardship Regime the concept that: 'Got rats? Where's the bait bucket?' became redundant. Under the 'hierarchy of control', which is a fundamental part of stewardship best practice, traps must be considered in preference to rodenticide.

So, a new imperative now exists. Whilst the 'hierarchy of control' applies specifically to rodent control, the principles also apply to rabbit and mole control. There are so many constraints on the use of aluminium phosphide, (see page 33) that a knowledge of traps and how to use them, is essential.

For decades operators used warfarin for the control of grey squirrels in woodland. That product has now gone, so, again, live and spring traps are the mainstay of control of grey squirrel control.

After habitat management, physical control is the next option that must be explored under the Rodenticide Stewardship Regime 'hierarchy of control'. For urban pest controllers that will mean trapping.

Following eradication, longer term protection achieved by the use of rat traps in locked, anchored boxes is supplanting permanent baiting as an alternative to both toxic and even non-toxic bait... but, now we arrive at the traditional drawback with lethal traps. They are one kill only and need to be checked regularly and reset.

Innovation to the rescue

Fortunately, the innovators are at work! At the recent PestTech exhibition there were many options from several suppliers focusing on how to tell the technician that his/her traps had been sprung.

Most involved electronic sensors sending SMS messages or emails, and it was heartening to see such systems becoming more flexible and cost effective. For most pest controllers it is still, though, a question of price.

One simple system was shown by Killgerm Chemicals, the AF Atom. A rat box with a slot in the top (a pestie's money box perhaps?)



A brown rat successfully trapped in a Perdix rat trapping tunnel fitted with Koro rodent traps

When the trap inside it is sprung a tag protrudes through the slot. Not as slick as the text/emails, but it does mean that the system can be set up anywhere without the need for a strong mobile signal or carefully positioned wi fi routers! Even in the absence of the operator, someone on site can be designated routinely to check around the boxes, without the need to open them all up.

Also recently available is the 'Goodnature A24', trap, which originated in New Zealand (see **Pest** issue 32: March & April 2014). This trap is powered by a CO₂ gas canister which resets the trap after each kill. The manufacturers claim that the trap can kill up to 24 rats on a single CO₂ canister. Unlike traditional kill traps, it does not store the dead carcass requiring disposal but 'drops' them as it resets, allowing the carcasses to be scavenged.

It goes without saying that this is not a trap to be used in an Integrated Pest Management system alongside the use of rodenticide. This trap is currently approved in England for rat and stoat control with approval for grey squirrel control pending. This trap is not currently approved for use in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Grey squirrel control

The use of warfarin outdoors in hoppers, for grey squirrel control was withdrawn some months ago. Trapping is now the main focus for gamekeepers and woodland managers.

Accident or design, who's to know? But this year's variation of the Spring Traps Approval Order, approved three new traps, two of them for grey squirrel control (the Koro large rodent trap and the Procul squirrel trap).

John Bryan of trap distributor, Fourteenacre, does not believe that legislation is that nimble, "It doesn't stop manufacturers from innovating but the approval process is the sticking point. I think we can anticipate new traps coming through for grey squirrel control but mostly these will have been launched and approved abroad first, just like the Goodnature trap."

The Koro 'large rodent trap', referred to above, and the smaller rodent trap (rats only), are marketed in the UK by Perdix Wildlife Supplies. Both can be purchased either as individual traps or set in



A grey squirrel humanely killed in a Koro trap

wood constructed tunnels behind carefully positioned baffles.

Dave Butler of Perdix emphasises that: "The baffles not only deter non-target animals, but help to 'position' the target animal in such a way as to produce a humane strike when tripped. The use of wood, rather than wire mesh, allows for a baiting compartment to be incorporated into the tunnel and therefore improve visitation rates by rats and/or grey squirrels. Increasing trapping efficiency is vital for many operatives switching from rodenticides to spring traps."

International humane standards

Readers are probably aware that problems have arisen in the implementation of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) in the UK. This international agreement is designed to protect the welfare of animals trapped for their fur, in particular in the UK, stoats. The implementation of the agreement in the UK had been delayed due to concerns about the availability of traps that pass AIHTS humane standards for stoats in the UK. However, a deadline of July 2018 has now been confirmed by the Government. For a time it had been unclear if the Brexit vote would alter these plans, but Ministers have confirmed they want the UK to meet these standards irrespective of Brexit.

It will be interesting to see how trap design and use evolves over the next few years in relation to AIHTS. While multi-species traps may currently be the preferred option for many practitioners, it may be necessary to look at more target-specific traps to meet these new humane trapping standards.

Rabbits and foxes

What of larger vertebrates such as rabbits and foxes? There is not much new to report here other than that, in a response to continued

pressure for the ban on the manufacture, sale and use of snares, a new Code of Practice for the use of snares in fox control in England, similar to last year's code introduced into Wales, was published in late October. It encompasses modern snare design and use, which are equally important. However, for foxes, a new DB snare from Perdix has recently been introduced featuring a break-away clip that has been designed to release badgers and deer, but still hold foxes. See **Pest** issue 47: October & November 2016.

Snaring guide

At the end of October the government published a new *Code of best practice on the use of snares for fox control in England*.

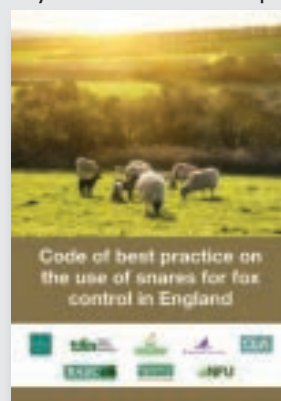
The 12-page colour booklet covers all the key legal requirements such as the need to check snares at least once a day when set and the requirement to dispose of carcasses so

that they do not cause harm to people or the environment.

Detailed guidance is also provided on best practice when setting snares, when inspecting them and on what records to keep.

You can download a copy of the new code from the **Pest** library. Visit:

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/library



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Keeping birds at bay in UK energy sector

Since its introduction in 2015, the use of the Agrilaser Autonomic has been growing. It has proved particularly popular in the larger commercial and industrial sectors where the harmless and permanent exclusion of birds is demanded, with particular success in the UK energy sector. Its popularity is reflected in the fact it took first place in the **Pest** Best Product award 2016 – see page 7.

Based on the south coast of England at Littlehampton in West Sussex, PestFix has been working hard over the last 18 months to introduce the fully automated Agrilaser Autonomic bird dispersal system into the UK, in particular to the gas, nuclear and renewable energy markets.

This has not been done single-handed as it has been achieved in partnership with the product's Dutch manufacturer, Bird Control Group, and a number of pest control servicing companies. The latter



The Agrilaser Autonomic in action protecting the Dounreay site

include NBC Environment of Snetterton, Exeter-based ISCA Pest Control, Riddance Environmental from Hitchin, Herts and Venables Pest Control Services based in Gloucester.

Notable installations at energy sites have included projects with National Grid Gas where two major infestations of ground nesting birds were resolved at their onshore terminals using Agrilaser Autonomic, supplied by NBC Environment. As Terry Robertson, senior operations engineer at National Grid Gas explains: "Our Elvanfoot site in South Lanarkshire was home to around 500 black headed gulls during the 2015 nesting season which caused us operational difficulties. We couldn't access or work on site until the birds had left and then we had the expense of cleaning up afterwards which was a costly exercise.

"At first when I heard about it, I was sceptical of the Agrilaser, however the alternative methods were either too expensive, ineffective or just not viable so we gave it a go before going down a more expensive route. The system worked very well during this year's nesting season and we were able to work on site unaffected by the presence of birds," concludes Terry.

Another installation with NBC Environment was at the Dounreay Site Restoration at Caithness in the very north of Scotland. Dounreay was the first nuclear power plant in the UK but today it is a site of construction, demolition and waste management, all of it designed to return the site to as near as practicable its original condition. Located next to the sea, it was a favoured nesting site for Arctic terns and other ground nesting birds.

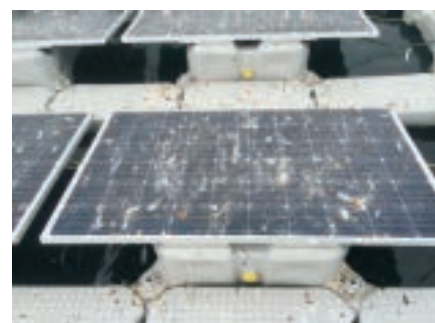
Another nuclear power station to experience bird problems is EDF Energy's Hinkley Point B nuclear power station based near Bridgwater, Somerset. Again, located next to the coast, herring gulls and black backed gulls were causing problems as they were using the newly re-roofed turbine hall as a night roost which resulted in guano damage.

The Autonomic installation was so successful that the station quickly ordered a second unit to protect other areas of the site too and the EDF management has recommended the system to several of the eight other nuclear power sites around the UK. PestFix expects to be installing further Autonomic units at two other sites in the near future.

Thames Water and their partners Lightsource, Europe's largest developer and operator of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects, are currently trialling Autonomic units at Europe's largest floating solar panel array. This is located on the QE II Reservoir in London and is used to offset electricity used for pumping drinking water. The array is set to generate 5.8 million kilowatt hours in its first year of operation.



The array has also become heavily infested with birds using it as a safe place to roost overnight away from ground predators. One of the results of this unwanted bird activity is heavy guano fouling on the solar panels which reduces power output by as much as 20%. In addition, the guano can permanently damage the special coating on the solar panels, the constant manual cleaning of the panels is time consuming and expensive and there is a considerable risk to the maintenance personnel from direct human contact with the guano, not to mention the risks associated with slipping.



Heavy guano fouling on the solar panels at Europe's largest floating solar panel array reduces power output and can cause permanent damage. Agrilaser Autonomic is currently being trialled at this massive Thames Water site in London

€3million funding announced for rodent control by lasers

On 26 October 2016, the European Commission announced funding of just over €3million, spread over three years, to create a project known as LIFE Laser Fence (this is part of LIFE EU programme). The aim is to eliminate rodenticide use, decrease crop losses by half and create awareness of the negative effects of chemicals and their impacts on the environment in Europe.

The project is a collaboration between Liverpool John Moores University, Bird Control Group (the Netherlands) and partners in the UK and Spain.

This project clearly echoes the desire within Europe to eliminate, or at least reduce, the use of rodenticides on farms. The LIFE Laser Fence project is seen as an environmental friendly solution.

Dr Alex Mason, who specialises in development and characterisation of sensor technologies at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and is project leader of LIFE Laser Fence said: "There is a strong European desire to eliminate poisons entirely. Coming up with a solution that fits both national and European policies means massive impact for the European economy and environment."



Facts and figures

The total budget of the LIFE Laser Fence is €3,135,928, with a financial contribution of €1,777,985 by the EU. The project started on 1 September and ends on 31 December 2019. Field trials will commence in 2017 in the UK, Spain and the Netherlands. Trials in the UK will be undertaken by the Hampshire-based Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Some commonly asked questions about Agrilaser Autonomic

Dan England of PestFix responds to those questions he most frequently gets asked by pest controllers about the use of this somewhat high-tech product.

Where can it be used?

Agrilaser Autonomic is a highly versatile bird deterrent system. The main constraints to using the system are that it must be used on a secure site and not in areas frequented by unauthorised people. Roof tops, industrial and commercial facilities and utilities are ideal applications. Not recommend are public areas such as shopping malls and parks. However, the system is fully programmable and can be configured to work around danger areas or times of the day when the public may be present.

How does it work?

The concept of Agrilaser is simple. It employs an intense bright green laser dot that is tracked across a pre-determined path on the structure or area that one wishes to protect using waypoints programmed into the device by the user.

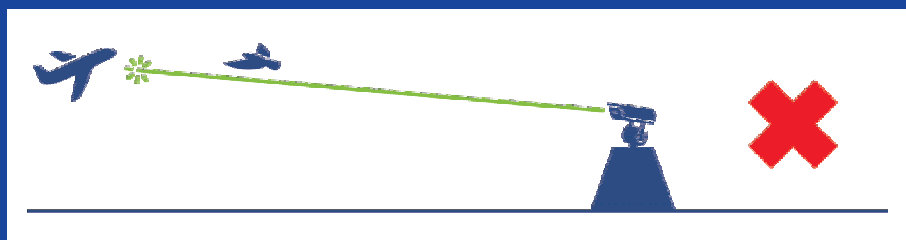
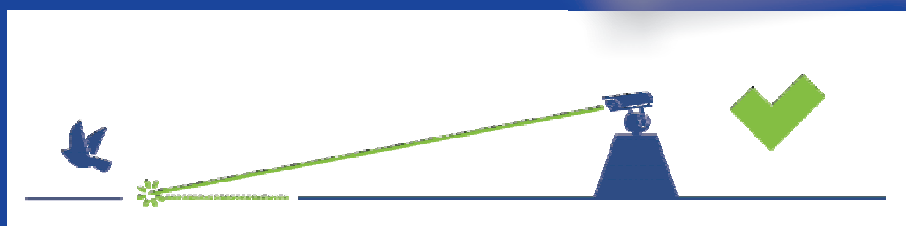
It is not designed to hit the birds with the laser, nor should it be aimed at birds in the sky – these are the two common misunderstandings of the system.

As the diagrams opposite show, green laser light was selected as it is the most visible wavelength to both humans and birds, so creating the best repulsion. As the bright green dot continuously and relentlessly patrols the protected area, the

birds move away, perceiving it as an unknown threat. Due to its constant movement day and night the birds stay away and do not habituate to the light.

Is it safe?

All Agrilaser products are classified as Class 3B lasers, which are safe for use in public areas. However, the laser dot must not be stared at for more than a split second and should not be viewed at all using magnifying glasses such as binoculars.



Does it need servicing?

Once installed, the Agrilaser Autonomic is simple to service and maintain as it has very few moving parts. It is fully weatherproof and requires only periodic visual inspection to ensure the laser unit has not been knocked or disturbed and to ensure that the projection lens is kept clean.

Readers with an interest in bird control are invited by PestFix to sign-up as an installation partner.

Sales support, BASIS Prompt approved product training and after sales assistance across the UK is available. Contact PestFix on 01903 538 488 or email sales@pestfix.co.uk



Only in the USA...

Spotted on one of the exhibitors' stands at PestWorld in Seattle (see page 38) was an Agrilaser Autonomic mounted on a robot!

The system is being promoted as a fully autonomous patrolling robot to provide effective solutions for large territories.

The laser system is intended for use in large open spaces, such as airports, golf courses, roofs, storage areas, lawns or agricultural fields.

Marketed by Flock Free Bird Control, their literature explains that the robot autonomously follows a pre-installed route from one point to another, automatically avoiding all obstacles, permanent or moving.

At each point, the robot performs a bird deterrent process with the laser system and then goes to the next point to repeat the job there. The routes may be easily changed at any time to get the best protection of your site against birds.

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Bye bye museum, hello Ricoh



All the fun of the fair on the Barrettine stand courtesy of Bell Laboratories



Paul Butler from Inspector Pipes exhibited at the show for the first time



Better safe than sorry says James Birkin, right, from Cliverton Insurance



John Bryan (right) of Fourteenacre talks to Kelly Farrant from Pest-Tech, Kent



Matthew Benton left of MBK Environmental Services with Bayer's Alan Morris

PestTech 2016 was as busy as ever. Indeed official attendance figures show 1,208 came through the door, that's up on the 1,147 the previous year, making it a fitting way to mark the end of an era. From next year PestTech will move from the National Motorcycle Museum to a new venue, the Ricoh Arena, just around the corner in Coventry.

In addition to the visitors, there were some 250 or so exhibitor staff, so no wonder it felt busier than ever. However, with no outdoor demonstrations and fewer sessions in the seminar programme, it was easier to plan the day.

There were 49 exhibitors stands to visit ranging from the multinational chemical giants like Syngenta, BASF and Bayer via the major product distributors to smaller more specialist operations. Most of the companies exhibiting are UK businesses or have UK sites. The exhibitor travelling the furthest was rodent trap specialist, Kness, who came all the way from Iowa, USA.

Bell Laboratories launched its new hidden kill trap, see page 35, and was bowled over by the reaction of some pest professionals who were extremely enthusiastic.

In the seminar room there was virtually a full house for every session, even the ones scheduled over the lunchtime period.

The new system of scanning bar-coded badges as delegates entered the room certainly speeded up the collection of CPD points and was a big improvement on the previous year when the manual system caused long delays.

Allowing more time for the changeover of speakers also helped the seminar programme run much more smoothly.

Topics covered ranged from software systems to manage your business, to rodenticide stewardship and updated industry codes of practice on bees and

glueboards. The latter have yet to be published but, we are told, are imminent.

Every autumn event this year has included a presentation on digital marketing but the best, to our mind, was on how to get on the Google map and, more importantly, why you should take advantage of this free service from Google.

All in all PestTech 2016 was a grand day out, so why is it moving?

NPTA's Adam Hawley explains: "To a large extent, we've simply outgrown the old venue, but also we felt that it was the right time to make a change and give the whole event a fresh look.

"The modern Ricoh venue is centrally located and easy to access, just off the M6. There's more room for meetings and networking, better parking and better catering on site too. Moving to the Ricoh Arena will mean that everything can be pulled under one roof so the *Pest Control News* dinner will also be held at the Ricoh next year."

The date for PestTech 2017 is Wednesday 8 November. See you there!

read more
on the web
[www](http://www.pestmagazine.co.uk)

Killgerm is celebrating 40 years as an independent company. There were cup cakes all round to mark the achievement

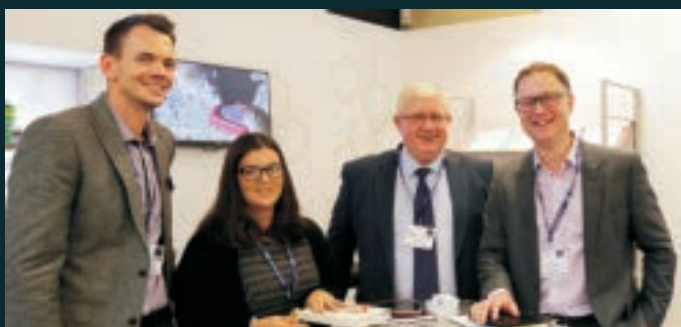




From the USA, Nick Fugate, left, from Kness



NPTA's organising team waves goodbye to the Motorcycle



From left, PelGar's Nic Blaszkowicz, Kerry Saunders and Tim Bridges with visitor Edward Deane of STV International



Darran Lebefter from 1env demos the ProBird Solar Guard



Dave Frisby from Pelsis, always one for a joke!



From Ratwall the two Daniels! Daniel Bamford left and Daniel Hopkins



From Bower, L to R: Phil Huggins, Tina Huggins, David Bowerman and Mike Brooks



Distributor Rat Pak was out in force. From left in white shirts: Dan Wright, Jim Butcher and, most recent recruit, David Helgesen



All the seminars were very well attended, including this one updating people on progress with the Rodenticide Stewardship Regime

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TM

Bed bugs bite back



Thanks Syngenta

Aware of just how important it is for busy pest professionals to keep up-to-date, Syngenta Professional Pest Management (PPM) has sponsored the production of this technical update on one of our most difficult pests, the bed bug.

Dr Kai Sievert, Syngenta's technical manager for the PPM business backed by their global research and development team and Ecolab's head of technical Mark Williams share their expertise to get you on the right track.

This is part of Syngenta's commitment to provide expertise and solutions that enable pest management professionals to deliver a life uninterrupted from the nuisance of pests to their customers.

The content has been reviewed by BASIS PROMPT and awarded two PROMPT Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points.

Those who need the points can complete the special **Pest Test** online at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/pest-test

Bed bugs can turn a good night's sleep into a nightmare. An infestation in the home can make domestic life unbearable and, for a hotel operation, any incidence can put the business and its reputation at risk. So, being in a position to solve the problem is good business for pest professionals

Ecolab head of technical, Mark Williams and Syngenta's Europe, Africa and the Middle East (EAME) technical manager, Kai Sievert, outline some of the challenges and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions to quickly and effectively tackle the problem.

Go back far enough in time and one in four homes was said to be infested with bed bugs. By the 1970s the use of modern insecticides meant they were no longer a common problem. More recently, however, bed bug populations have again begun to flourish – due to increased domestic and foreign travel, a lack of public awareness, the discontinued use of a number of insecticides and, of course, the development of resistance. In London, some operators have reported over 100% increase in call-outs for bed bugs during the past year.

Costly business

For hotels and residential homes, the cost of bed bugs can include room downtime; disposal and replacement of infested items and staff time to prepare and reset a treated room. Furthermore, there are the other 'hidden' costs that may include a tarnished reputation, loss of business and potential legal action, with hefty fines.

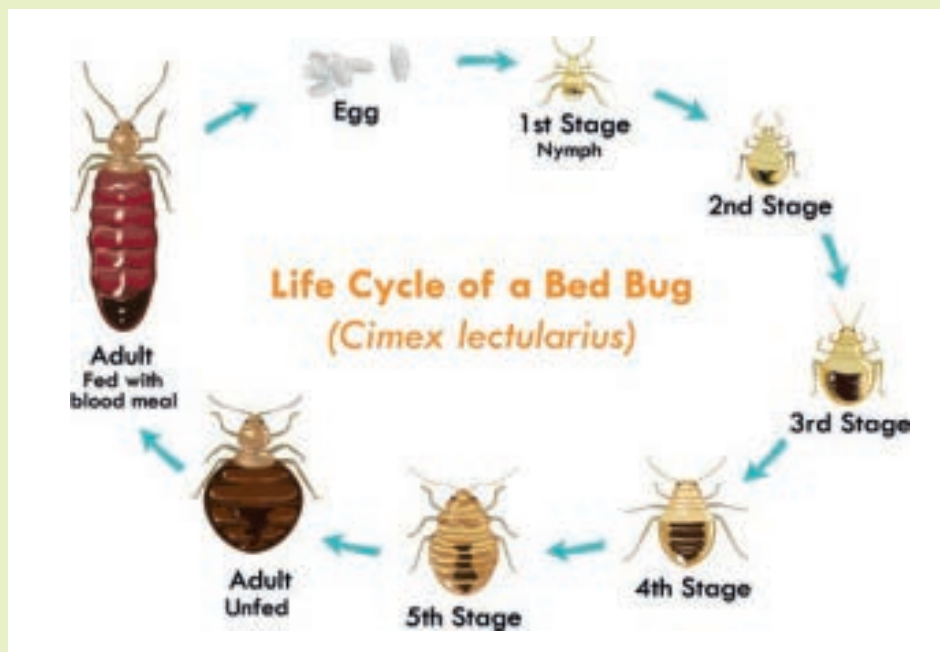
Customer research has highlighted 80% of hotel visitors were concerned about finding bed bugs and 12% of travellers had altered or cancelled trips due to concerns about bed bugs.

Bug life creates challenges

Bed bugs are nocturnal parasites. They feed exclusively on blood and prefer humans to other potential hosts. Roughly 20% of people display an allergic response to bed bug bites – hence not all visitors to a hotel room may suffer, which makes pinpointing an infestation more difficult.

Adult bed bugs are around five to six millimetres long – about the size, shape and colour of an apple seed. After a blood meal, the adults may increase up to nine millimetres in length. Nymphs, the young stages of the bed bug life-cycle, are slightly smaller and virtually colourless when they first hatch becoming darker as they mature.





Bed bugs go through a series of five moults before reaching the adult stage. A feed on blood is required to moult from one stage to the next. Complete development, from egg to adult, can take as little as six weeks but, at typical bedroom temperatures of 18°C, it will take 16 weeks for the full cycle.

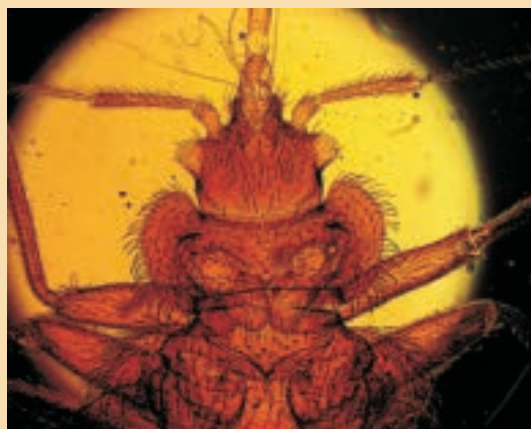
Adult bed bugs can crawl relatively long distances when seeking refuge or a host.

Studies in hotels have shown that when one room is infested, bed bugs can quickly spread to adjoining rooms – either through physical movement or transfer during the cleaning process.

Bed bugs avoid light and prefer to reside in tight cracks and crevices near a potential host. Due to their reclusive nature, it is difficult to inspect for and treat infestations.

Bed bug facts

- Bed bugs have been a nuisance to humans for thousands of years. Found in and around sleeping areas, bed bugs feed on human blood. Bites are typically found in small clusters or rows on the upper torso or other areas of the body that are in contact with bedding.
- Adults are usually found hiding in and around the mattress, box spring and frame of beds. However, bed bugs are very mobile and can hide in furniture, luggage, lamps, picture frames, curtains, even under switch plates, wallpaper and carpet edges. They are also excellent hitchhikers, which has contributed to their global resurgence.
- An adult bed bug can typically survive ten months without feeding, or longer at lower temperatures.
- A single bed bug can lay as many as 500 eggs in its lifetime of up to a year.
- Bed bug bites are typically painless with no lasting implications. However, they can cause an allergic reaction in some people leaving an itchy bump or welt that lasts for several days. There is some evidence bites may be linked to Chagas disease.
- Bed bugs feed on exposed skin for five to ten minutes until they're full. After feeding, they hide in secluded places, such as under mattress seams and behind headboards, for up to ten days before they need to feed again.



And since bed bugs are transferred via infested personal belongings, it is virtually impossible to prevent their entry, or re-entry, into rooms.

Finding your foe

There are four commonly used methods for identifying bed bug populations, each with specific costs, benefits and challenges.

Canine sniff:

Dogs can be trained to inspect potentially infested areas, seeking out the characteristic scent emitted by bed bugs.

Though using canines can be efficient, there are practical limitations, particularly where air flow and conditions can affect the reliability of detection. Dogs may also sometimes fail to differentiate between active or inactive populations, or the actual location of infestations.

Bug traps:

Bed bug monitors have been developed as in-room devices that are designed for detecting bed bugs. More sophisticated monitors use CO₂, heat and/or kairomones to simulate a sleeping body and attract bed bugs to the device, where glue or pitfall traps catch the insects.

However, consistency of catch, especially at low populations, remains a challenge for these products. Ecolab continues to research the effectiveness of in-room monitors, as part of an integrated pest management program.

DNA profiling:

Bed bug DNA analysis is a service that can be used to confirm identification of bed bug activity in a suspected area.

While DNA analysis can be bed bug specific, it cannot distinguish between an active population or previous infestation. In addition, only samples that contain insect parts, cast skins or faecal material will be positively identified as bed bug material.

Samples producing a negative result do not necessarily indicate a bed bug-free area.

Visual Inspections:

This continues to be the most practical and cost-effective way to detect bed bug activity.

With adequate education, staff or property owners are the most effective line of defence against bed bugs; as part of their daily room servicing they are well placed to spot bed bug activity.

However, when bed bug activity is suspected or identified, a trained professional pest controller must be called in immediately to provide recommendations on treating the infestation.



Mark Williams



Kai Sievert

Stopping movement

Bed bugs like to hide in small cracks and crevices and can easily migrate through wall and ceiling joints from one room to another. Additionally, cleaning and equipment can be 'carriers' between infested and non-infested rooms.

All adjacent rooms – including above, below and to the sides – should be inspected, in addition to the infested room. Industry research has reported there is a 20% chance of an adjacent room being infested.

Programmed approach

Due to the biology and behaviour of bed bugs, a range of control measures and multiple treatments, with mixed modes of action, is essential to control active infestations.

A direct treatment application to the bed bug is ideal. However, bed bug adults and eggs are often located in areas that are difficult to reach with either chemical or non-chemical control measures. Multiple treatments will increase the likelihood that bed bugs will contact a treated surface and obtain a lethal dose.

Some treatments provide limited residual control and thus a secondary treatment may be needed seven to ten days after the initial application to directly target any newly emerged nymphs.

Furthermore, with some bed bug populations resistant to some treatments, multiple treatments using a range of control actions offer the best chance to achieve total population control and minimise the risk of developing resistance to any one option.

Follow-up treatments also offer the opportunity for ongoing monitoring of activity and the chance to pick up population spread into other areas.

Ecolab research has shown programme efficacy can be seriously jeopardised if any critical steps in the treatment are missed in an infested room.

Figure 1 shows the predicted effect on a bed bug population if only one treatment is completed.

However, a recommended, multi-treatment protocol (Figure 2) is modelled to be the most effective solution for controlling bed bug populations.

Control options

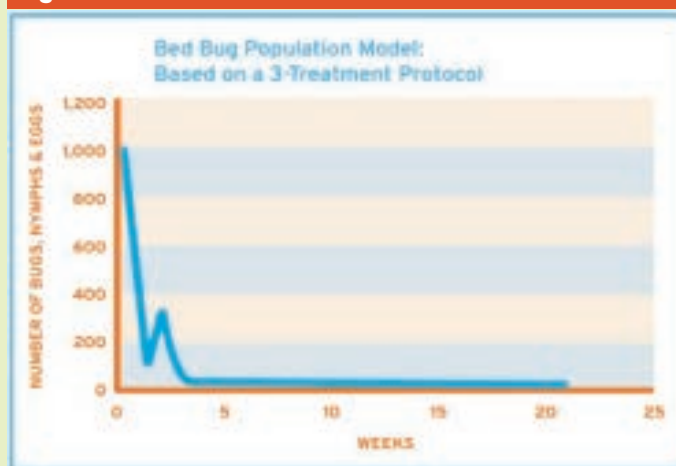
The most effective IPM strategy for long-term bed bug control has proven to use a combination of techniques and products. The most appropriate approach in any situation will depend on an assessment of the site and conditions; some of the techniques may not be suitable, or practical in all instances.

In addition to the core treatment of a professionally applied residual

Fig 1: Ecolab single treatment model



Fig 2: Ecolab multi treatment model



insecticide there are a number of options to be considered:

Hot stuff:

Heat can effectively kill all stages of the bed bug life cycle. But trials have shown it requires temperature of at least 46°C for at least four hours, or over 54°C for a minimum of 30 minutes. In practice, that proves very difficult and costly to achieve in-situ for a ▶▶▶

Clearing cracks & crevices

The secretive nature of bed bug populations during daylight hours makes crack-and-crevice treatment a vital component of an effective IPM strategy.

Long-lasting residual activity will treat areas where bed bugs are likely to congregate, including bed springs and box frames, as well as crevices along skirting boards, beneath beds and furniture as well as behind bed frames and headboards.

Recent research supports the performance of the residual insecticide Demand CS on bed bugs. In a 2007 study at Purdue University, Indiana, USA, for example, the crack and crevice treatment completely eradicated bed bugs in six of eight apartments and infestations were reduced by 98% in the remaining two apartments.

In 2015, a study in Lipová, Czech Republic, eradicated the bed bugs in four out of five apartments and delivered 99.7% control in the remaining apartment.

whole room and to bring the fixtures and fittings up to temperature. Surrounding areas must also be treated with insecticides first, to kill any bugs migrating from the heat.

Steam cleaner:

Killing bed bugs with high pressure steam is possible for localised areas, but the heat rarely penetrates far enough to achieve complete control. Over wetting of room fixtures and fittings is unpopular and can create other problems. But used for specific areas, alongside crack and crevice treatment, it can be a useful tool.

Deep freeze:

Using compressed CO₂ to freeze bed bugs is effective in direct contact, but has many of the limitations of steam control. The action of blasting bugs with the gas can displace live insects to quickly recolonise areas. Trials

suggest populations can quickly bounce back after treatment. Again, it can only be used in conjunction with residual insecticide treatments.

Cover up:

Physically covering mattresses has been suggested to stop bed bugs harbouring in bedding material, or trapping infestations in the cover. In practice covers are subject to a high failure rate, either from original manufacture or tears and holes in operation. Also a cover only protects one area and does nothing to address populations in other parts of the bed or room, requiring allied residual insecticide treatment.

Another option has been insecticide impregnated fabrics, which may provide localised control but has the same limitations, along with the exposure risk for customers where no pest is present. A good

IPM strategy will target pests only where they are causing an issue.

Insecticide treatment:

Insecticide treatment is normally the key to a successful bed bug eradication. Crack-and-crevice treatments should be targeted where bed bugs are likely to congregate, as directed by the product label. Focus should be on accurate application to bed frames, as well as in crevices along baseboards, beneath beds and furniture as well as behind bed frames and headboards.

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Insecticide resistance

So are 'super bugs' really fully resistant to insecticides? There is certainly evidence of resistance to pyrethroids, organophosphates and other commonly used insecticides in bed bugs. Much of this development has been attributed to poor application, low rates of use and low-quality products that have allowed some of the pests to escape control and develop enhanced resistance mechanisms. Low potency consumer products, applied poorly, could exacerbate potential resistance and, if further applications with the same mode of action insecticide are made, the resistant insects will remain uncontrolled and quickly proliferate.

In the field however, despite resistance, trials have shown that thorough treatments with potent pyrethroids such as micro-encapsulated lambda-cyhalothrin, Demand CS, can still achieve a very useful level of control. But to ensure complete control of the bugs, it is important to use a range of control measures, as outlined above, and other products with different modes of actions, such as insect growth regulators, carbamates and desiccant dusts.

Best practice to minimise the risk of insecticide resistance developing is to use the most effective available chemistry, at the full approved rate and to apply it as accurately as possible to get complete coverage.



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Barrettine supports Arctic project

For the past four years, Barrettine Environmental Health has been supplying products to scientists working within the Arctic Circle to help them monitor environmental changes in this unique environment. The identification of flying insects pollinating a key Arctic plant species has been helping reveal changes in the environment.



Above, the actual dwarf shrub, Avens (*Dryas octopetala*). Right, the artificial version used to monitor fly numbers

Avens (*Dryas octopetala*) is a dominant dwarf shrub widely distributed across the entire Arctic region. It is both an important food resource and is dependent on insect pollination for its seed production. It was therefore an ideal candidate for the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT project) to study the connection between pollinator communities and seed production.

Scientists and volunteers from Alaska to Finland have worked on what was christened the Global Dryas Project, organised by the University of Helsinki, who also provided the materials to the teams. The aim was to quantify how much insect pollinators increase the flower's seed production and how this might change as the Arctic warms. To achieve this, when the Dryas was in flower, the teams planted plastic fake 'flowers' covered in glue to trap the pollinating insects.

It was vital that only environmentally friendly and biodegradable insect monitoring products were used in this sensitive environment. The fake trap flowers were made from material supplied by pheromone specialists, Agrisense, and coated in glue. Insects visiting the flowers were simply trapped on the glue. The fake flowers were left in situ for up to three days before being collected and the insects identified. Barrettine biodegradable Romax glue solvent was used to remove the stuck insects for DNA barcoding to identify the flower-visiting insect community at each site.



This revealed a diverse community of insects visiting Dryas, including two-thirds of all insect species known in the Arctic. Even against this diverse background, the abundance of muscid flies emerged as a key predictor for seed set in Dryas, whereas overall insect abundance and species richness had little or no effect. With muscid flies as the main drivers of the pollinating function in the High Arctic, a recently observed decline in their numbers offers cause for concern.

David Haskins, sales director for Barrettine Environmental Health, commented: "The company is proud to be involved with this project. The research has such a broad overarching importance in monitoring environmental trends and ultimately in providing a broader understanding of factors that will impact on the future of the global environment.

"The use of non-toxic and biodegradable products in these remote areas is imperative. Barrettine's biodegradable Romax glue solvent used in this application to remove insects for counting was the perfect solution."

Further information on this project can be found at www.eu-interact.org/field-sites/

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It's a CPD bonanza

Members of the BASIS PROMPT professional pest controllers' register can claim two CPD points for reading **Pest** throughout 2016 with this number: **PC/49018/16/g**.

If you need more points then try our special **Pest Test** on bed bugs sponsored by Syngenta – pages 23-25. Plus there's also the regular **Pest Test** opposite. These are worth two points each.

We are sorry for the frustrations caused by the delay between test submissions and CPD points being awarded. But, please bear with us. This is a manual operation and we have, at times, been overwhelmed by the number of entries. By the time you read this, however, we will have cleared the backlog.

All **Pest Tests** received by 31 December 2016 will count towards your 2016 points total.

New Bayer pest manual

Always an excellent addition to any pest controllers' bookshelves, Bayer has published an updated version of its pest control manual.

In full colour, the manual includes images to aid pest identification, information on pest biology and behaviour, lifecycles and habitats so that each species can be correctly identified and targeted. It also includes technical product information and application guidelines to ensure best practice and to reduce the risk of product resistance.



www.environmentalscience.bayer.co.uk

New website for Bell

Bell Laboratories has updated and enhanced its website with a fresh design and new features. It is now mobile-friendly, allowing users to easily navigate on any device. More product images and videos are also included. As before, users can easily find the most up-to-date labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). Country-specific product pages cover Bell's five major categories – rodenticides, bait stations, traps, glue traps and attractants.

www.belllabs.com

New id posters

Killgerm has produced a new identification poster on bees

(solitary, bumble and honey), wasps and hover flies. It joins the existing suite of id posters,



several of which have recently been updated, covering rodents, bed bugs, insects and breeding sites. Collect yours at a Killgerm event or call: 01924 268 420.

Updated bee code of practice

The Pest Management Alliance has published an updated code of practice on the control of bees. Every pest professional should have read this document as it provides detailed guidance on what to do if you are called in to deal with feral bees. Download your copy from the **Pest** library www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/library



Pest Test 48

Now also
online

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**. So, read through our articles on *Toxic to reproduction* (pages 8 & 9) and *Trapping resurgence* (pages 13 to 15) and answer the questions below. Try to answer them all in one sitting and without referring back to the articles.

SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONS to: **Pest** Magazine, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ.

We will mark your **Pest Test** and, if all answers are correct, we will enter the results onto your PROMPT record held by BASIS.

- 1 Rodenticide active substances have been classed as 'toxic to reproduction' at, or above, what concentration in ppm?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 20 ppm	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 40 ppm
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 30 ppm	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 50 ppm
- 2 When the new labelling requirements come in, which user groups will **NOT** be able to buy 'higher concentration' rodenticides?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Amateurs	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Farmers
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Pest professionals	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Gamekeepers
- 3 What is the Pests Act 1954 primarily concerned with?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Determining methods of grey squirrel control	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Enhancing the effectiveness of rabbit control
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Specifying procedures for fox management	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Listing birds that can legally be culled
- 4 Which Act does the Spring Traps Approval Order originate from?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) The Protection of Animals Act 1911	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
<input type="checkbox"/> b) The Pests Act 1954	<input type="checkbox"/> d) The Animal Welfare Act 2006
- 5 Which Act banned the use of self locking snares?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) The Protection of Animals Act 1911	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
<input type="checkbox"/> b) The Pests Act 1954	<input type="checkbox"/> d) The Animal Welfare Act 2006
- 6 What does AIHTS stand for?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Agreement on International Hunting Trials Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Agreement on Internal Home Town Standards
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Agreement on Investigative Humane Trapping Schemes	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

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Farming company fined for cavalier attitude

A Norfolk farming business, T Long and Company Limited has been fined £15,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,967 along with a victim surcharge of £120, giving a total to pay of £20,087.

The company had been successfully prosecuted for putting workers and members of the public at risk whilst using aluminium phosphide to control rabbits.

Norwich Magistrates Court heard how a local resident saw two men trespassing in her garden. When confronted they told her they were "gassing rabbits" but did not give her any other information about the substance they were using or the risks involved. After asking them to leave her property she found a number of blocked rabbit holes and an empty aluminium phosphide container. As readers will be aware, aluminium phosphide breaks down on contact with moisture, including moisture in the air, to produce phosphine gas which is very toxic, highly flammable and dangerous to people and the environment.

Natural England investigates

An initial Natural England investigation identified approximately 56 treated burrows in six different parts of the garden including in the hedgerow of the public lane running alongside the property which is frequently used by local residents. There had been no precautions taken to inform or protect either the householder or members of the public from risks to their health from possible exposure to phosphine gas. Remains of the gassing tablets were also found exposed on the grass in the garden.

A subsequent Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found that the workers using the gassing compound did not have the appropriate competence or certificates to apply the product. They were not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and were not properly trained or supervised to carry out this type of work.

Speaking after the case Natural England's senior wildlife adviser Dr Ed Blane said: "This pesticide is widely used by farmers, pest controllers and game keepers to control vertebrate pests such as rats. When used correctly by trained operators there is very little risk to people, but when it is used in such a negligent way as in this case people can be seriously injured or killed.



A decomposing aluminium phosphide tablet found at the scene

"It is of real concern that this poison was applied to rabbit burrows in a garden without the owner's permission or knowledge. In addition to the real risk to the home owner, the garden was being managed as a haven for wildlife including a population of rare great crested newts which are a protected species. In January, when this gassing was done, great crested newts would have been living in the rabbit burrows in the garden. We do not know if any newts died as a result of this poison gassing.

"As the magistrates highlighted, the use of this poison in a garden and alongside a public road could have endangered any child or dog which investigated the blocked holes," concluded Ed.



The fumigant flask found at the site

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PRODUCTS

What's new?



Bugo tape joins Bugo discs

Similarly to the original Bugo disc launched in 2015, the new Bugo tape also acts both as a barrier to bed bugs and as a detector of infestations. It is virtually invisible, lasts up to eight weeks and uses no chemicals, says manufacturer Simpson Turner.

Each packet of the self-adhesive tape contains a 10 metre roll, enough for one application around a king size bed. It is available in both soft floor application for carpets and rugs, or a hard floor version for floor boards and tiles.

www.TheBugo.com

Rakil G joins rodenticide gang

A new bromadiolone-based rodenticide – Rakil G – is the latest addition to the Edialux range. Presented as whole wheat bait, Rakil G has been used by professional pest controllers across Europe for many years. The high quality food-grade whole wheat is husked and treated against germination before being combined with the active ingredient. Rakil G is suitable for both rats and mice and is available as a 20kg sack, a 5kg tub and, soon to be launched, a sachet format.



www.edialux.co.uk



Rotech Bullet

Joining the Rotech box range from 1env comes the Bullet. This offers durability and versatility with the flexibility of holding a rat trap and/or grain/block bait. Designed with rats' behaviour in mind, the Bullet offers a clear line of sight to encourage rodent acceptance plus raised height on the lid to allow rodents to sit up and feed, as they prefer.

www.1env.co.uk

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Also launched is PX-ULV Odourcide presented for use in Exodus machines.



www.killgerm.com

Tracking dust now in puffer packs

Previously available in 250g jars or 1kg tubs, both pink and yellow non-toxic fluorescent tracking dusts designed to aid the detection of rodents, now come in handy, easy to carry 100g puffer packs.

www.killgerm.com



PestTech is always a good time for the launch of new products in the UK. Most of those featured on the page alongside were also on display, but here are some we caught 'in the flesh'.

Fishing for prizes

Visitors to the Killgerm stand had the chance to hook a bait box using the new AF telescopic bait rod. Those that had a 'catch' won a prize. Slightly more fun than retrieving baits or snap traps in hard to reach places. A great time was had by all!

The pole has two adjustable sections which can be locked and unlocked with a simple twist action. The telescopic design allows extension to any length up to 2.5m.



www.killgerm.com



Bell goes for discretion

On display on the Bell stand was the company's new Trapper hidden kill mouse trap. This is designed with a quick, no mess capture and kill mechanism – a definite upgrade from the unsightly kill of traditional wood traps.

As Brady Hudson, Bell's UK manager explains: "With a stealthy, low-profile design it blends into a variety of surroundings. It's built with a fully enclosed capture area, that keeps the captured mouse hidden inside."



www.belllabs.com

Get unstuck

Sakarar glue board solvent is an effective solvent, based on vegetable ester solvents. It has a low oral toxicity, low odour, low vapour hazard and is ideal for use in cases where non-target species have come into contact with a glue board, or for removing insects from glue boards for identification.



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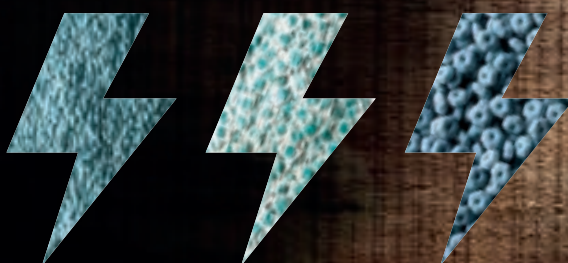
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Parasitec best yet!

The French pest management event, Parasitec, was held in Paris from 16 to 18 November. It had a new venue, the Paris Event Center and, with some 3,000 visitors, it was one of the busiest such events ever held in the city. We have written extensively about the exhibition and associated seminars on our website. So, rather than repeat ourselves here, we've pulled out a selection of pictures we felt would be of interest to our readers and pointed you to the relevant articles on the website for further reading.

Worth a visit

With Paris now just a 2.5 hour train ride from London, we believe it is an event UK pest professionals should consider visiting. What's more, as it has become more and more of an international gathering, you don't have to worry too much about the language. If you can manage a few words of French that's great, but, if not, you'll be able to get by in English! It will be November 2018 before Parasitec returns to Paris. Next year, politics permitting, it will be in Istanbul, Turkey 28-29 September 2017.

read more
on the web
www.pestmagazine.co.uk

There were a number of products making their debut in Paris



Top: NARA spray rodent attractant
Right: Nattaro self adhesive bed bug control tape
Centre: Signal digital monitoring system. There's more at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/november/the-exhibition-at-parasitec-living-in-hope

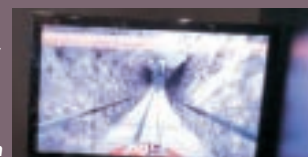


There were 100 exhibitors at Parasitec among them were a number of regulars from the UK. Pictured are top left: Bell Laboratories' Brady Hudson, right, with colleague Arnaud Del Valle, second from right. Top right: Dawn Heptinstall-Bolton from Agrisense with Paul Sidebottom from Russell IPM.

Centre: From Pelsis Ramos Karla, Diego di Frisco and Amy Frith
Bottom right: From Tenv James Mendoza, Patrick de Vos and Phil Lister

See more pictures from Parasitec at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/november/parasitec-in-pictures

There was fun to be had on the Lodi roller coaster 3D reality ride. Lodi UK's Roger Simpson, below right, and *Pest* editor, Frances McKim, joined in



The speakers were miked up and the audience given headsets so the 'silent' seminars took place in the centre of the exhibition hall. Read more at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/november/seminars-prove-popular-at-parasitec



First time exhibitors from the UK Rat Pak (top) and Octavius Hunt. Pictured on the Rat Pak stand in Rat Pak fleeces are Dan Wright and Jim Butcher with fellow UK exhibitors from Lodi UK David Reece, left, and Ross Goodman. Representing Octavius Hunt are, from left, Olesja Drozdova, Seamus Butler, Jo Scutcher and Nick Dale

Seattle hosts

Delegates and exhibitors travelled from all points of the globe for PestWorld 2016, held in Seattle, USA 18-21 October. Among them were a large contingent from the UK. The event organised by the US National Pest Management Association (NPMA) benefits from a critical mass that we just don't achieve in Europe. With size comes more razzmatazz and some high profile speakers. This year that included the Seattle Seahawks Blue Thunder Drumline, the Pike Place Fish Throwers and inspirational speakers, Jim 'The Rookie' Morris and Robbie Bach. Jim's life has been the subject of a Disney film and consultant Robbie, ex Microsoft, was the guy responsible for the Xbox. He encouraged his audience to drive change in their businesses.

Both the exhibition and the education programme are also on a bigger scale. There were 40 seminars and, on the last day, a choice of five special themed educational tracks to follow. The 180 exhibits covered some 100,000 sq ft (over 9,000 m²).

Read our in-depth reports on the **Pest** website:

Overview:

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/october/world-s-biggest-pest-event-lives-up-to-its-name

Exhibition:

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/october/what-was-new-in-the-pestworld-exhibition-not-much

Inspiration:

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/october/driving-change-it-s-your-friend

Education:

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/october/pestworld-educational-sessions-offer-plenty-of-choice

Going digital:

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/october/going-digital-doing-it-smarter-pestworld-shows-how



Pest's Helen Riby with Roland Higgins of the confederation of European pest associations, CEPA



Peter Kitson, second from right, Killgerm chairman and finance director with PestWest USA colleagues



From left, PelGar's Gerwyn Jones, Gareth Capel-Williams and Andrej Branc



From Germany, Andreas Beckmann of the German pest management association, DSV, with Markus Puschmann



The Syngenta stand was one of the busiest with delegate questions to answer and business meetings



Charlotte Dubois, Roger Simpson and Marie-Laure Biannic from Lodi



Dominique Stumpf CEO of NPMA



Ex Microsoft speaker, Robbie Bach



Jim 'The Rookie' Morris



Richard Ardron from Pelsis is quizzed about the new Ratwall product

Cracking programme for ICUP 2017 in UK

The scientific programme for the International Conference on Urban Pests (ICUP), to be held in Birmingham 9-12 July 2017, looks first class. It will be a unique gathering of global experts presenting their cutting edge research on urban pests. As it's on our UK doorstep, it's an opportunity too good to miss.

The ICUP 2017 Organising Committee is particularly excited about Misha Leong (California Academy of Sciences) who will be explaining arthropod communities in homes, whilst Isabelle Landau (Urban Pest Advisory Service, Zurich) will share her experiences of *Lasius neglectus* control. One of the many international contributors is independent consultant Partho Dhang from the Philippines who will review one of the most important topics of all – the impact of climate change on pests.

Looking closer to home, Public Health England is well-represented by Kayleigh Hansford covering the brown dog tick and Alex Vaux on UK mosquito surveillance. With the recent finding of *Aedes albopictus* eggs in the UK, the session on the Asian tiger mosquito, provided by Ruben Bueno of Departamento de Investigación y Desarrollo, Laboratorios Lokimica, Spain is particularly pertinent.

Bed bug coverage will be extensive with contributions from stellar experts: Stephen Doggett, Dini Miller, Mike Potter and Jeff White.

Applied angle

There is also an applied angle to the presentations with a considerable focus on rodents. For example, Andy Brigham of Rentokil, Mark Lambert (National Wildlife Management Centre Animal and Plant Health Agency) and Alan Buckle (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) represent just some of those providing a strong UK rodent representation, meaning that there will be a whole session devoted to these pests. Of particular interest in Europe will be the efficacy of reduced concentration rodenticides, a topic which Erik Schmolz of the German Environment Agency will address. A full session on resistance includes Syngenta's Mark Hoppé (chair IRAC public health team) who will be informing delegates of the latest recommendations on resistance management.

The full programme will be released before the end of 2016.

Registration now open

There is a range of great value rates on offer, all of which include three nights of on-campus accommodation at either the business class hotel or modern student accommodation at Aston University. Also included are breakfast and lunch throughout the conference, the proceedings (in print and USB format), conference bag, a range of goodies and Wi-Fi access.

Readers shouldn't be put off by what might sound a high-brow scientific event. From experience, this is an excellent conference and all those with any sort of technical responsibilities within their organisations should attend. Those that do will certainly not regret it. So, take advantage of the excellent 'early bird' discounts which are available now until the 31 January 2017. Full details at www.icup2017.org.uk/registration/



Diary dates

8-9 March 2017

Disinfestando 2017

Palacongressi, Rimini, Italy

Email: licia@disinfestazione.org

22-23 March 2017

PestEx 2017

ExCeL, London E16 1XL

www.bpca.org.uk/pages/index.cfm?page_id=104&title=about_pestex

2-4 April 2017

2017 Global Summit of Pest Management Services

New York Hilton Midtown, New York, NY 10019, USA

<http://npmapestworld.org/education-events/upcoming-events/2017-global-summit-of-pest-management-services/>

11-12 May 2017

ConExPest 2017

Hala Stulecia (Centennial Hall), Wroclaw, Poland

conexpest.pl/en/conexpest-2017-2/

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