

pest

The independent UK pest management magazine

More than a nuisance?



Issue 47
October & November 2016

Asian hornet invades
South West Britain



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Last time for PestTech
at Motorcycle Museum



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Dealing with bed bugs
in residential care



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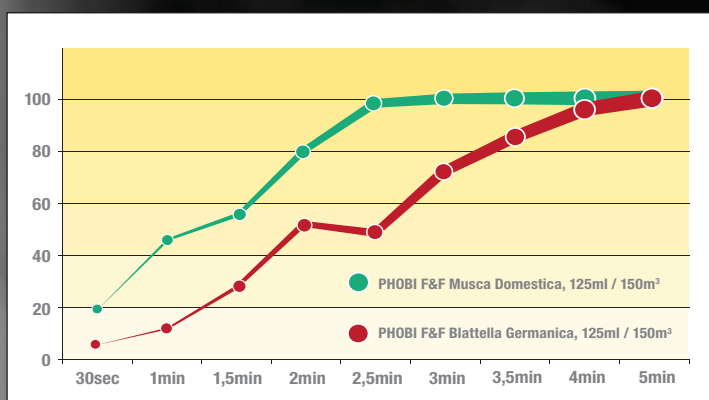
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As the industry's only independent magazine, **Pest** aims to deliver a mix of unbiased news, impartial advice and topical technical features. We are committed to being as inclusive as possible covering every sector of the pest management industry.

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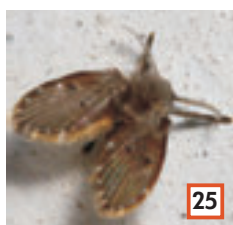
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The times they are a-changin'

It might be more than 50 years since Bob Dylan wrote those famous lyrics but, they are as true today as they have ever been. There's certainly plenty of change to report on in this issue.

By far the biggest change is in the way rodenticides should now be used outdoors. Pest professionals have nothing to fear from Rodenticide Stewardship but, if non-target species are to be protected, everyone needs to think hard about how they can change their practices to reduce the risk. We often hear that pest professionals are excellent at coming up with innovative solutions, so now's your chance. Don't just carry on as before, think hard about how you can change your rodent control practices, for the better.

Change is afoot too at PestTech. For the first time that we can remember, there are no outdoor demonstrations this year. What's more this will be the last time the event is held at the National Motorcycle Museum. Yes, for 2017 the whole shebang is upping sticks and moving to, as yet undisclosed, new venue.

According to two new authoritative reports, see page 35, invasive species are lining up to invade our shores. Indeed as we report on page 12 the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) has already landed. Enjoy!

Frances McKim

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Two for the price of one

In response to the picture we showed of two mice caught in the same trap in the last edition (**Pest** Issue 46), one reader has trumped it with a picture of two rats in the same trap! Steven Price from Herefordshire Environmental Services took this photo of two young rats caught in tandem at a poultry site. The site has a long history of rat activity, so, rather than use rodenticide, Steven gave traps a try. The trap, a Bell Trapper T-Rex was baited with Provoke attractant.



Servest goes to war

Servest, the integrated solutions provider has won a five-year contract with Imperial War Museums (IWM).

From 1 November 2016, Servest will provide 'soft' services to the unique property portfolio: Imperial War Museum London, the Churchill War Rooms, HMS Belfast, Duxford and the iconic Libeskind building in Manchester. The contract covers pest control, cleaning, front of house and waste solutions to the buildings that collectively welcome 1.6 million visitors per annum. IWM, seeking to move away from working with multiple service providers, wanted to appoint one company that could offer a high quality, cost effective 'soft' services solution.



Tamper resistant test on the way

The term 'tamper resistant rodent bait station or box' is one which the industry regularly uses. It's on product labels, in training manuals and sales catalogues. But unlike in the USA where before a bait station can be called tamper resistant, it must pass a series of official tests, in Europe there is no standard to judge tamper resistance against. Well, not yet anyway.

The European Commission has been aware of this anomaly for some time but, with many more pressing rodenticide stewardship matters to resolve, the issue has languished at the bottom of the priority list. However, we understand that it has now moved up that list, so watch this space as it is likely that there will soon be a European standard for tamper resistance.

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Thermal drones for Mitie

Facilities management (FM) company, Mitie, has taken the next step in its drone operations by acquiring the Inspire 1. It is the first thermal imaging drone to be used by the company across its businesses. As Mitie explains, the Inspire 1 is also the only thermal imaging drone of its kind being used by any FM company in the UK. It will allow Mitie to deliver a wide range of services, from pest control to property and waste management.

Mitie has already used drone technology in its pest control business, inspecting roofs for gulls'



nests, pigeons blocking gutters and other animal intruders. However, with the thermal imaging drone, they realised they could take this one step further in making aerial inspections even more precise across a greater spectrum of customer needs.

Cannon to the rescue

A team of professionals from Cannon Pest Control and the self-funded organisation, The Tree Bee Society of Great Britain, successfully removed 100,000 honeybees sustainably from Rookwood Hospital, Cardiff, on behalf of NHS Wales.

The honeybees had created a colony consisting of comb, honey and eggs within approximately 12 sq ft of roof-space at the hospital's elderly care assessment unit. The problem was noticed when staff started to see drips of yellow, which turned out to be honey, appearing in patches inside parts of the hospital.

Following a recommendation from the team, work included removing the outer roof of the building to gain access and safely re-home the bees at Tree Bee's hive.

The project took a total of 15 days to complete.



Prompt boosts battle to beat cowboys

The growth of the pest control professional register, Basis Prompt, has been hailed as a positive step in the battle to beat the cowboys. Membership of the initiative has soared by around 15% in just two years with more than 3,700 technicians now signed up. The rise illustrates an increasing appetite for legitimate companies to distance themselves from unqualified operators.

Ratman reprimanded

Often with pest control, it's people themselves that cause the problem. For a good example look no further than the foxy tale on page 31 of this issue.

Things have got so bad down in the Highfield area of Southampton that a Community Protection Notice (CPN) has had to be handed to a local resident, dubbed 'Ratman' in an attempt to stop him feeding the rats. Such is his enthusiasm, he had been spotted buying 20kg bags of wheat, much of which was later recovered from the rats' burrows. The problem got so bad that the graveyard at Highfield church had to be closed and residents were advised to keep pets indoors.

Earlier in the year a CPN was also used to prevent Rose Rodell, dubbed the 'bird woman', from feeding birds excessive amounts of food from her home in Sidmouth, Devon. This was after a seven year battle to restrain her and endless complaints from neighbours about the resulting bird mess and rat problem.

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Rats in trousers win global award

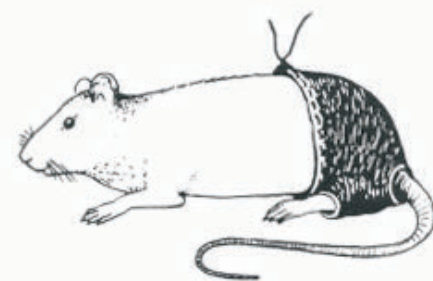
We have all heard of the Nobel Prizes, but how about the IG Nobel Prizes? These honour achievements that make us laugh and then think.

According to the prize organisers, they are intended to celebrate the unusual and honour the imaginative, as well as spur our interests in science, technology and medicine.

Every year in September, 1,100 eccentric spectators watch the new winners step forward to accept their IG Nobel Prizes. The prizes are handed out by proper Nobel Prize winners.

This year's Reproduction prize was awarded to the late Ahmed Shafik.

He studied the effects on the sex lives of rats of wearing wool, cotton or polyester trousers. He then conducted similar tests on human males.



So pesties, if you spot a smartly dressed rat, he might just have read this research paper and be checking out the results for himself!

Equally whacky was the Literary prize which went to a group of scientists who wrote three volumes – an autobiographical work – about the pleasures of gathering flies that are dead, and also flies that are no dead yet.

The Peace prize covered an academic study on the detection and reception of pseudo-profound bullshit. Brilliant!

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Kerry joins PelGar

Kerry Saunders has been appointed general manager for PelGar International's insecticide production site in Telford.



The Telford site became part of PelGar after its acquisition of Agropharm in May 2015.

Kerry joins the business from Octavius Hunt, where she spent 16 years rising from analytical chemist to managing director, a post she held from 2011.

She says: "During my time at Octavius Hunt I learnt a great deal about the pest control industry and decided that the time was right for me to expand my knowledge beyond smoke products.

"PelGar is the perfect fit allowing me to build on my manufacturing experience whilst learning new disciplines in a progressive and dynamic business. I am looking forward to the challenge that lies ahead"

Kimberley is new face at Bayer

Kimberley Watts has moved to the Environmental Science team at Bayer as assistant product manager for the professional pest control business. She was previously in the Bayer CropScience team, where she had been marketing communications assistant.

This experience coupled with a degree in event management will stand her in good stead for her new position which includes event support, but also provides a new challenge in strategic marketing management.

In her new position Kimberley will be responsible for supporting pest control products across the professional pest management industry and in the agricultural sector.



Rat Pak team expands

The UK's newest distributor, Lincolnshire-based Rat Pak, has appointed David Helgesen as its new business development manager. David has a wealth of sales and business development expertise gathered over the past 25 years.

During this time, he had a lengthy spell as a surveyor for Terminix gaining first-hand experience of pest control.

Most recently David was national business development manager for a company supplying the Non Destructive Testing industry. He says: "I am pleased to be joining Rat Pak at such an exciting time with new product lines coming on board and new developments being designed and built on site at our factory near Lincoln."



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Rodenticide stewardship now with teeth



We've been talking about it for what seems like forever – it was August 2012 when the Chemicals Regulations Directorate (CRD) first issued its rodenticide risk mitigation proposals – but the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime is now having a real impact. Is that good or bad for the industry? Associate editor Helen Riby reports.

The milestone just passed by the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime is one which, to my mind, will have the biggest impact yet on rodenticide use.

From 1 October 2016, professional anticoagulant rodenticides for outdoor use can only be purchased and used by individuals who hold stewardship approved proof of competence. Yes, rodenticide stewardship has well and truly arrived in the UK and it now has some teeth. No proof of competence, no rodenticide sale.

Of course there is provision for old stocks to be used up, so make sure you check the deepest recesses of your pesticide store and use any pre-stewardship labelled products before 31 March 2017.

Nothing like it before

As a means of emphasising professionalism and keeping the cowboys out, there has been nothing like it. For the first time in our sector there is a legal requirement to provide proof of competence before purchasing and using these products. Some may argue that the bar has been set too low, but at least we now have a bar!

In practice it means that anyone purchasing professional rodenticides, and let's not forget that includes gamekeepers and farmers as well as public health pest professionals, will need to show either a stewardship approved certificate of competence or, as an interim measure for farmers, a document confirming membership of a Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) approved farm assurance scheme.

Without such documentation all sellers, including those online, will be prohibited from completing the sale. This is because stewardship labelled rodenticides place new legally binding duties on suppliers. This is what is on the label:

When this product is supplied to a user for the control of rodents, it shall only be supplied to a professional user holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements.

A welcome move or a set-up?

Surely this should be welcomed by pest professionals as it will make it extremely difficult for untrained users to get their hands on professional rodenticides. Some cynics however suggest a hidden agenda. They feel the industry is being set-up to fail so that rodenticides can be banned. Others suggest that banning rodenticides would be no bad thing as the 'powers that be' would soon change their minds when London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast were all overrun with rats!

Of necessity, the development of the UK Rodenticide Stewardship

Regime has involved compromise and those who have been most intimately involved in its development are the first to admit that it is not perfect in every respect.

However, UK stewardship does allow considerable discretion with more emphasis than some other European countries on pest professionals assessing the risks and using their professional expertise to determine the management approach. Take a few minutes to read the article on the Dutch system in **Pest** Issue 44: April & May 2016 and you will appreciate just how much flexibility there is in the UK regime.

Not the end, but the beginning

This latest milestone is not the end of the story. The way rodenticides are used must change if we are to reduce the occurrence of residues in wildlife – that's the objective of stewardship and the main way its success will be measured.

For many years it was thought best practice to set out bait points on farms and shooting estates and around the perimeter of sites such as food manufacturing premises, keeping them permanently topped up with rodenticide. But, as CRRU chairman Dr Alan Buckle says: "We now believe this practice, at least in part, is responsible for the contamination of wildlife that we now see so widely in the UK. Of course, there is no risk if rodenticides are not used. So it must become high priority in all outdoor locations to make them as inhospitable as possible to rodents. This is done by reducing harbourage and preventing access to foodstuffs. It is simply not acceptable to provide 'bed and board' for rodents, then attempt to solve the problem by repeatedly poisoning them with rodenticides."

Cornerstone of stewardship

One of the cornerstones of stewardship is the **CRRU UK Code of Best Practice**. By developing this Code, CRRU was able to persuade the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the UK Government that the risks to non-target species from the outdoor use of rodenticides could be reduced. This is no doubt why the Code is now referred to on all stewardship labels as follows:

Read the label before use. Using this product in a manner that is inconsistent with the label may be an offence. Refer to the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice (or equivalent) for guidance.

But what does this mean in practice? We know that some pest controllers are interpreting it to mean following the Code is now a legal requirement. But look carefully, that's not what the label says. Yes, pest professionals should read the Code but then they should use their professional expertise to apply the principles within it. The Code details sound 'thought processes' rather than offering a recipe

of fixed working practices. It is guidance, not a blueprint for control. As an example, the Code outlines the concept of the hierarchy of risk. This implies that aluminium phosphide should be used in preference to an anticoagulant rodenticide. However, clearly user risks and storage and transport risks must also be taken into account. All these factors must be assessed to determine whether or not aluminium phosphide is an appropriate option.

Concerns have also been raised about the Code's advice to remove bait if, after two weeks, there has been no bait take. The argument goes that because rats are neophobic, two weeks isn't long enough. But, let's remember what the objective of stewardship is. Leaving bait down outdoors for long periods, is no longer acceptable because of the risks it poses to non-target species.

Some lateral thinking is required. How about trying those latent boxes that Grahame Turner from Mitie talked about in *Pest* Issue 46: August & September 2016? Bait can then be introduced, once the rats have got used to the boxes.

Another option would be to employ non-toxic monitoring blocks until such time as rodent activity is identified. Or, at its simplest, remove the previous bait and try a new one.

Condition of membership

Because the CRRU Code is so central to stewardship the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) has made it a condition of membership. As NPTA's Julie Gillies told us: "By the end of this membership year all members will have to sign a document to say that they have read and understood the document and that they agree to comply with the CRRU Code."

BPCA goes further as BPCA's Simon Forrester explains: "BPCA requires its servicing members to adhere to all the codes of conduct as shown on the BPCA website. This includes the CRRU Code. Each

year every BPCA member completes an annual return which requires them to re-confirm that they will abide by this.

He continues: "In addition, every servicing member receives a free audit against BS EN 16636:2015 (Pest Management Services – Requirements and competences). This audit involves checking adherence to relevant legislation and codes of practice, and includes an 'in-field' audit of a technician."

"In-field audits to assess compliance against the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice could be vital in future. If our industry is to meet the requirements set down under the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime, we must demonstrate companies are checked to ensure compliance. BPCA is ready to meet this challenge and to help our members maintain their access to rodenticides," concludes Simon.

Stewardship concerns or questions

The trade associations are integral to the CRRU UK Task Force and are represented at all levels of the CRRU structure for delivery of stewardship. If you have a concern or question about any aspect of stewardship the first port of call should be your association. In addition the CRRU website offers advice on stewardship and there is a *Contact us* page where you can ask questions. Visit www.thinkwildlife.org/about-crru/contact-us/

Where next?

With so many interest groups involved in its development, the Code, inevitably, contains a number of compromises and, doubtless, some paragraphs that could perhaps have been worded better.

At some stage in the future it will no doubt be revised but, in the meantime, following the *CRRU UK Code of Best Practice* is a **first and very important step** on what must be a **path of continuous improvement in the way rodenticides are used outdoors**, wherever you work in the UK.

Key elements of UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime

- The objective of the regime is to reduce the environmental impact of anticoagulant rodenticide use and thereby ensure the continued availability of these essential pest control products. Don't forget there are plenty of people who would much prefer to see all rodenticides banned.
- The regime covers all rodenticides sold to, and used by, professionals outside buildings. Products restricted to indoor use only, amateur products and fumigant gases for rodent control, are **NOT** part of the regime.
- Professional users across all sectors (agriculture, gamekeeping and public health pest management) must demonstrate their competence by holding a Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)-approved certificate of competence. Farmers who are members of a CRRU-approved assurance scheme have an exemption up until the end of 2017 to give them time to get qualified.
- Products for professional use now all have new labels which include three stewardship conditions. These are:
 - To be used only by professional users holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements;
 - Read the label before use. Using this product in a manner that is inconsistent with the label may be an offence. Refer to the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice (or equivalent) for guidance.
 - When this product is supplied to a user for the control of rodents, it shall only be supplied to a professional user holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements.
- Proof of competence is required to purchase stewardship-labelled professional rodenticide products. You may also be asked for proof of identity before purchase – a good use for your BASIS Prompt card.
- The *CRRU UK Code of Best Practice* published in April 2015 is the cornerstone of the regime. Application of rodenticides according to the Code will prevent unnecessary exposure of wildlife and other non-target animals.
- The results of stewardship are being closely monitored by the HSE and the Government Oversight Group which makes decisions about the continued authorisation of rodenticides.
- Failure to make progress in reducing residues found in wildlife may lead to more stringent regulations and restrictions on use.

Remember the label is legally binding

The ultimate sanction is to withdraw the authorisations for outdoor use altogether.



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Spiders the latest 'in' pest

The national press love picking-up on a particular pest and hyping it up almost out of all recognition. If it can be large, ugly and bite, so much the better. Over recent years it's been 'giant mutant' rats – this year it seems to be spiders! Large no, but bites yes!



The fear of spiders – arachnophobia – may be an exaggerated form of an instinctive response that helped early humans to survive venomous spiders, or a cultural phenomenon that is most common in predominantly European societies.

And, as children, we are all likely to have been brought up on the nursery rhyme, *Little Miss Muffet*.

So, it is this inbuilt fear the press has latched onto – not helped really by some pest control companies issuing press releases outlining this 'invasion' and how householders can treat such a (perceived) attack, which naturally involves calling in a professional pest control company to treat it! Be this as it may, it does drum-up business for those in professional pest control.

One company that found itself in the thick of all this is Slough-based JG Pest Control. As Asda is one of their clients, when the call came through that an Asda customer at the Leicester store had taken home more than they bargained for with their bunch of bananas, it was action stations. The customer claimed that dozens of the venomous Brazilian wandering spiders had dropped out of the bunch.

Whilst this may be completely true, and there may well have been spiders present,

it's always strange with these stories that suddenly a member of the general public becomes an entomological expert and that, whey hey, not only are the local papers on the scene, but so is a crew from regional TV and the next thing the story is in *The Sun* and all much to Asda's displeasure. To add petrol to the fire, in the BBC Online report it said: 'there is speculation they were Brazilian wandering spiders, a bite from which can cause an extremely painful erection and possible death.'

However, all credit to the team from JG as they were filmed and photographed undertaking a professional treatment throughout the house using heat, despite the TV crew calling it fumigation. Not a single spider was spotted though!

But as is often the way, from this coverage the next thing was a call into the JG office from *BBC Countryfile*. Could JG come up with a house with spiders which they could film and, where, ideally, the householder had been bitten? Roy Couch, head

technician for JG, knew of just the spot – a bungalow in Chertsey, Surrey which the lady householder had moved into in the last six months. It was alive with spiders. Fulfilling the brief, she had been bitten on the face and the culprits had officially been identified as false widow spiders.

So, on 28 September filming took place with the TV crew from *Countryfile* and presenter Jules Hudson. As Roy Couch explained: "I did a thorough spaying of all the door frames, soffit boards, wall junctions etc using Ficam W as this is about the only insecticide labelled for use on spiders. It obviously did the job as the householder rang-up the next morning saying the house was a spider graveyard!"

At the time of going to press, Roy and his spiders are due to be shown on *Countryfile* before the end of October.



Spiders to the rescue

Every cloud has a silver lining! You dismiss spiders at your peril. A company in Michigan, USA has, for the last 11 years, been developing a natural pesticide sourced from some of the peptides which make up the venom of the deadly Australian funnel-web spider. The company has just received US FDA clearance to market the product, sold by Vestaron, targetted at killing garden insects without harming other garden-dwellers. One of the advantages is it does not affect the ever declining honey bee.



The BBC *Countryfile* film crew with technician Roy Couch (far left) and presenter Jules Hudson



Re-wilding – what comes next?

With reports of invasive alien species and the programme announced in New Zealand to eradicate non-native species, perhaps the call to reintroduce the European lynx to the UK should come as no surprise. It's a native after all! The Lynx UK Trust has short-listed five potential locations, Kielder Forest in Northumberland being the favourite. The last of the British lynx disappeared around the year 700.

New fox snaring code for England imminent

A new Code covering fox snaring in England is due any day. It will join the existing Welsh Code of best practice published in December 2015 (see page 32) and the Scottish practitioners guide published in December 2012. Both of these publications can be downloaded from the **Pest** Library.

The new Code for England is likely to closely mirror the Welsh one and has the support of the relevant gamekeeping and agricultural organisations. Its impending publication was announced to the House of Commons by the new Minister for rural affairs, Dr Therese Coffey, during her first appearance on the Government's front bench. This was in response to a motion calling for a total ban on the use of snares by Labour backbencher, Jim Dowd MP for Lewisham West & Penge, held on 21 July 2016.

Once published, the new English Code will be added to the **Pest** Library.

New Zealand aims to eradicate non-native predators

The New Zealand Government announced on 25 July 2016 an ambitious plan to eradicate all non-native predators from the country by 2050 in a move aimed at protecting indigenous wildlife. The scheme seeks to remove every rat, stoat, possum and feral cat from the country in the next 35 years.

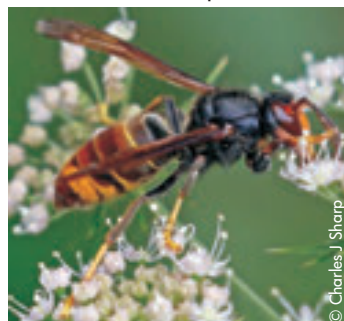
Under the strategy the new government company, Predator Free New Zealand Limited, will sponsor community partnerships and pest eradication efforts around the country. It will have a budget of NZ\$ 28m (£16m).

It's official – the Asian hornet has landed!

The first sighting of the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*), on mainland UK was confirmed by the National Bee Unit on 20 September. The sighting was in the Tetbury area of Gloucestershire. Following this a three mile surveillance zone was set up around Tetbury. A local control centre was opened to co-ordinate the response and bee inspectors were deployed with infrared cameras and traps to locate any nests. Nest disposal experts were put on standby to destroy any nests with insecticides.

By 30 September the nest had been located and destroyed. It was found at the top of a 55 ft tall conifer tree. Inspectors from the National Bee Unit are continuing to monitor the area for Asian hornets, alongside local beekeepers. However, to date, no live hornets have been seen since the nest was removed. Anyone who suspects a further sighting is urged to contact email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

On 4 October, as **Pest** went to press, a further sighting in North Somerset was confirmed by Defra. Work to find and destroy any nests is under way and a three-mile surveillance zone has been set up.



The Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*)



Time up for buzzards and ravens?

On 28 July 2016 Natural England (NE) issued a licence permitting the control of up to ten buzzards to prevent serious damage to young pheasants. Obviously this caused more than a stir in certain circles and NE had to defend its decision. As part of the organisation's commitment to being open and transparent about its licensing decisions, on 7 September NE released the documents relating to its decision. These can be found in the news section of NE website at www.naturalengland.org.uk

This action followed the Judicial Review at the High Court, announced on 13 November 2015, which quashed Natural England's refusal to grant a

Northumberland gamekeeper a licence to control buzzards; a battle that had been going on for four years. NE is currently considering four further applications for licences to control buzzards to prevent damage to livestock.

Meanwhile, in June, a gamekeeper in Wales was granted a licence by Natural Resources Wales for control of ravens. In Scotland, the organisation, Calling for Raven Control is petitioning Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to have the common raven added to the general licence.

Across the water in Norway, the Government there has sanctioned a trial cull of golden eagles because of predation on lambs and reindeer calves.



© Accipiter

There's a call to allow the culling of ravens in Scotland

Stay of execution for Fenn traps

The restriction on the use of Fenn traps for the capture of stoats in the UK has been put back until July 2018. These traps were to have been removed from sale as they were deemed inhumane under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS).

The AIHTS were introduced to cover wild animals caught for their fur. In total 18 fur-bearing species are included. Of these, in the UK the badger, beaver, otter and pine marten can only be caught under licence, so only the stoat is affected by AIHTS.

Work has been ongoing to devise a suitable alternative spring trap for stoats which meets the standard. As this has so far proved impossible a further two years has been agreed prior to AIHTS implementation. Following the Brexit decision, this may prove one EU requirement the UK can 'bury'. Time will tell?

A football mole causes havoc!



This active mole knows how to score! All these mole hills were caused by one single mole which, Devon-based Dave Archer of DKA Pest Control, trapped within a matter of minutes.

It was something of a crisis situation as the mole created around 50 hills overnight and just before the football season was about to start at the Winkleigh pitch.

What was interesting, as can be seen in the picture, is that several of the mole hills were virtually in straight lines and these coincided with where the white lines were regularly marked on the pitch. Obviously the mole preferred areas where the ground was slightly compacted.

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A quiet revolution in pest control

Following the development by the European pest management industry of a quality standard for pest management services, EN 16636:2015 there has been a quiet revolution underway in our industry. At the most recent count, 53 pest management businesses from the UK had proved that they operate to that European standard by achieving CEPA certified status. Here, Jessica Morgan from the independent certification body delivering the audits, Bureau Veritas, explains what this means for the pest management industry and its customers.

For a number of years changes have been afoot across the pest control industry, in part due to legal requirements to minimise the environmental impact of pesticide use, enhanced fears of bio-terrorism and changing client needs. One thing is clear, the traditional image of a pest control technician casually walking through the premises laying toxic baits, is most definitely consigned to the past!

Setting the benchmark

Work to develop a European standard for pest management service began back in 2010 and was a truly Europe-wide effort with more than 200 individuals from 18 countries contributing their skills. One of the main drivers of establishing such a benchmark was to protect the sector from having an arbitrary standard imposed on it.

The result of all that effort was the publishing on 4 March 2015 of the official European standard for pest management services EN 16636:2015. The standard specifies the skills and competences that must be met by professional providers of pest management services and was the first European Standard to be established for the pest management service industry.

Quality guaranteed

Like all such standards however it is available for anyone to purchase and use. What turns it into something of true value is a proper auditing system to guarantee the quality of work.

This need for an independent and authoritative auditing process was recognised by the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and led to the development of CEPA certified. The concept of CEPA certified was announced a fortnight after the publication of EN 16636.

The move was welcomed by many in the sector. According to an early survey conducted by CEPA, 85% of UK pest

management companies said that they would consider applying for CEPA certification once it had been published. Commercial roll out commenced in the UK in January 2016.

Ahead of the game

Nine months on and, interestingly, despite the UK's reservations about the EU and the fresh debate about Brexit, it is British companies which, so far, are leading the way in showing their adoption of the new standard by going through the certification process.

To date, the UK has the largest take up of CEPA certification with 53 companies already approved compared to 24 organisations in Italy; the second ranking country. This figure is expected to rise to 100 by the end of the year.

Perhaps one of the biggest drivers for CEPA certification in the UK has been the support provided by the British Pest Control Association (BPCA). The BPCA has created a cost effective model through which all its members are being audited by Bureau Veritas to assess conformity to the EN 16636 standard.

Interest from specifiers

Specifiers in the food and hospitality sectors have already shown great interest in CEPA certified and there is evidence that some customers are already insisting on CEPA certified status in contracts/offers to tender. The recent Thames Water tender, worth an



Jessica Morgan from Bureau Veritas

estimated £5.8 million, is a case in point, detailing CEPA certified status as a requirement.

Because some of the largest pest management companies operating in the UK are CEPA certified it is estimated that, as of July 2016 more than 50% of all UK pest management is now undertaken by technicians operating under an independently certified system.

Assessment

Prior to assessment, companies can use a free self-assessment tool designed by CEPA. The tool allows them to assess themselves against the new standard and address any shortcomings which may be evident.

The next step is to choose a CEPA approved certification body, such as Bureau Veritas, to undertake the formal assessment. All Bureau Veritas EN 16636 auditors are fully qualified pest control technicians. The audit looks at the process from enquiry through to completion of work. It covers training and CPD programmes and follows technicians into the field to witness their actual practices.

Following the initial audit, pest management companies receive a detailed report outlining any findings from the audit and expected timescales for their closure.

Once issued, the CEPA certificate is valid for three years. To maintain its validity, a surveillance audit is carried out 18 months after the initial assessment. Once CEPA



certified, the company is registered in the online CEPA directory at www.cepa-europe.org/certifier-area/cepa-certified/cepa-certified-operator-directory/

Many in the pest management industry are enthused by the new standard seeing it as a way of boosting the industry's image and reinforcing customer confidence. But customers too, will benefit from using pest management companies that have undergone the audit process.

Food business operators are becoming more aware of threats to the food chain and are increasingly wanting to eliminate all weak

points in their defences. The introduction of CEPA certified is an extra safeguard which demonstrates that the pest management industry is also serious about its responsibilities.

Going forward, BPCA is already having discussions with customers to ensure that they are aware of CEPA certification and what improvements the standard brings. Feedback has been very positive with many of these stakeholders seeing it as a major step forward and keen to adopt the standard as the benchmark for pest control.

Find out more at PestTech 2016

Bureau Veritas will be exhibiting at the National Pest Technician Association's (NPTA's) PestTech event at the National Motorcycle Museum on 2 November. Jessica Morgan, CEPA product manager (UK & Ireland) for Bureau Veritas will be one of the speakers giving a presentation on *CEPA Certified and EN 16636 - The standard for professional pest management*.



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How did you get into pest control?



In May this year we posted a story on the **Pest** website which detailed the background of 100 candidates on RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Control training courses in 2013/14. In it we posed the question how did you found your way into professional pest management? This request seems to have hit a chord as the number of replies has been impressive. We have selected the most interesting ones and reproduce them here, as we felt confident others would enjoy reading them too.

From the accounts we have gathered it is clear that there are many ways into this industry.

One thing which stands out is just how much all those who replied enjoy their jobs. Positive comments which were made, time and time again, include: being your own boss; working outside; the variety of challenges faced and the feeling that you are genuinely helping customer, making a difference to their lives and that they are grateful for what you do.

With one exception, all those who got in

touch were individuals who had taken up pest control relatively recently and started their own companies. There was not a single reply from technicians, field biologists or managers from any of the larger regional or national pest control companies. Maybe they were too busy to even read our web news, never mind respond detailing their own experiences? Nor were there any replies from those currently working in local authorities, manufacturer or distributor companies.

Read on and enjoy...

Nigel Caves, Pest Doctor NW, Warrington, Cheshire



I was a market trader for 16 years. One day, my wife and I had a great idea of feeding the wild birds in winter after seeing a nature programme on TV. So, we bought bird feeders and fat-balls etc and sat back. We attracted finches and blue tits and everything was beautiful. Then my wife said there was a noise in the loft, which I assured her was magpies on the guttering. This was happening most mornings, but certainly not magpies at one o'clock in the morning!!!!!! So, after consulting an expensive pest control company, I never forgot the experience.

At the time, I was looking for a new career direction as I could see the retail trade and markets dying. I was looking for a career where people needed me as much as I needed them. I initially took a franchise with one of the companies, then, a year ago, I spread my wings and have now gone solo. A good move? Well certainly a good start.

**Louise Chapman,
Lady Mole Catcher, Norwich**

Like most people I got into pest control by accident – but then I don't consider myself a pest controller, as I specialise in moles and regard myself as a mole detective.

Having spent six years as a school teacher, which was fairly stressful, I was looking for a job working outside. I went and trained as a garden designer at Easton College and saw a mole catching course, which I thought would be interesting. Having completed the course, I worked as a gardener but found it was a lot of hard work for little reward. It was then I spotted there was a gap in the market for catching moles. That was over three years ago and I haven't looked back – I love it! I pride myself on the service I offer and now even use my teaching skills running Lantra mole catching courses for the British Mole Catchers, which I took over from Brian Alderton in April 2015.

There have certainly been some great spin-offs. Like, for example, being selected to take part in the *Deadliest Pest Down Under* TV show. I'm a pretty gutsy person, but having faced those crocodiles I've now got even 'bigger balls of steel'!



Nick Woodroffe, Peak Pest Control, Buxton, Derbyshire

Thought I'd put pen to paper to give you a little insight into my pest control career decision. Now, firstly, I'll be honest and say that at school I never wanted to be a pest controller, that position was filled by a desire to be a Peak District Park warden...which, incidentally, never happened.

My head was turned at the age of 19 by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue and, 23 years later, I'm at Buxton Fire Station as a crew manager. However in 2010, aged 36, I decided I needed a trade to move into – one I could develop as a family business, for the day, if and when, I decided to retire, or leave the fire service.

In my immediate area only the council offered a pest control service and, having watched a Notts-based company clear pigeons from my station's drill tower, I thought... I could do that!

In 2011, still with a full time job but with a shift pattern that gave me time to start, we began our pest control business – Peak Pest Control. That involved flying to Newbury in Northern Ireland to do my RSPH Level 2 award in pest control (it was the next exam venue on the list). My initial thoughts were for me to run the technician side and Sharon, my wife, to run the paperwork side.

Now, five years later, however, Sharon has recently passed her Level 2 examination and we are both out on the road sharing the contracts, admin and call-outs between us. It has taken us this long to get established as, obviously, we started with from scratch with absolutely no idea of how to run, or market, a business.

I now have a good number of contracts, regular repeat custom from local people plus I work all over the county controlling rabbits. I'm still full-time in the fire service, but it's now getting in the way of my business!

I wouldn't change it for the world and love working for myself. As a career, pest control was never offered by my career's adviser, but I would definitely recommend it. One word of advice though, I'd look to complete an apprenticeship with an established pest control company to get a good grounding in the business first. It's tough to start from cold.



Dave Evans, Pestend, Sandhurst, Berkshire

Interesting to see how people get into this line of business, isn't it?

I come from a 20+ year career in cutting-edge IT, culminating as the operations director for the UK arm of a multinational software company.

So, why pest control?

It offered me the chance to employ a range of skills, it's challenging and constantly changing. This is my third year now and I was in half a mind to write a short article about starting out, how I developed a marketable profile and perhaps some of the issues facing a new business in this sphere. Maybe one day – I'll just deal with this client first...!

As an aside, compared to IT, the biggest differences I see are a vastly better quality of life and clients who are genuinely grateful for the services performed.

FEATURE

Becoming a pestie

Kelly Farrant, Pest-Tech, Maidstone, Kent

Prior to becoming a pest controller I did 25 years in the Royal Engineers. I went from Private to Regimental Sergeant Major, then took a commission and became a Captain but then decided it was time for a change.

I wanted to start a business, but was not sure what to do. Whilst I was still in the army, I had a chat with a guy down the road who owned a pest control company about pest control as a job and the seed was planted.

There were a lot of transferable skills going from the armed forces to pest control.

Some are obvious, such as weapon safety, but also things such as high values and standards which are key to becoming a professional pest controller.

I already had a number of courses under my belt which was helpful, such as my NEBOSH General Certificate in Health & Safety and First Aid at Work and I quickly did my IPAF



Kelly's medals include: Afghanistan, United Nations Bosnia medal, NATO Bosnia and the Gulf War

and got my Fire Arms Certificate as well as my RSPH Level 2 in pest control.

In the 18 months I have been running my business, I have managed to attend a range of courses, but my engineering background helps when dealing with many situations and tasks, such as bird proofing where you often have to engineer a solution to a problem. I now have a second guy working with me, he is now trained and is booked on his RSPH Level 2 Award in October.

Liz Davies, Hinton Pest Control, Hinton on the Green, Worcestershire

Often people are brought into the industry by a keen interest in wildlife and it's management, but my introduction is actually a love story that resulted in a change of career.

At the time, I was a full-time working mother to a six-year-old child and I was going through a divorce. I was teaching at West Mercia Police headquarters and I remember telling my sister that the only way I would meet a chap would be if he turned up on my doorstep.

Quite a while later, I noticed the mice. Now I'm a practical rural lass and I had a cat that was a fearsome predator, but I did start to be concerned when the cat killed 30 mice, indoors,



Liz Davies with husband, Steven Blount (right) and technician Tim Cubberley



within a week. The final straw was when I opened my wardrobe and a mouse jumped out, landing in my cleavage.

I called the council, who referred me to their preferred contractor and that's when Mouse Man entered, stage left.

I instructed him to kill every single rodent in the property with the exception of my two pet rats. That was 12 years ago. We are now married and have a further two children. I became a qualified pest control technician in 2013, we have our own CEPA certified pest control company and I no longer keep bird seed in our garage!

Bit of a giggle really, but God bless all those mice!

Imogen Levenson, Tufnell Park Pest Control, London



Many readers will recognise Imogen Levenson as one of *The Ladykillers* from the BBC 2 series broadcast last year. This is how she got into pest control.

I was working as a marketing planner for IPC Magazines when a family friend suggested that I shouldn't waste my degrees but work for someone she knew who was looking for a field biologist.

From that first pest control company I moved to a second, then stopped to have and bring up my three children, Kitty (18), Archie (15) and Otto (9). When Otto started primary school I considered re-training, but realised I already knew a lot about a particular industry.

I toyed with the idea of becoming a sole trader which would fit in with family commitments so I visited PestTech, which I considered to be a good starting point.

I saw a few people there who I already knew, including one who was prepared to sell me rodenticides and insecticides and talked to the BPCA and BASIS Prompt among others.

From here I haven't looked back. But what I would say is, set up your own management and recording system before you begin trading!

Above:
Archie Levenson, aged 15, now officially taller than his mother!

Left:
Otto Levenson, aged 9, dressed as Willy Wonker for recent Roald Dahl celebrations

Right:
Kitty Levenson, aged 18, pictured winning the national cricket final with the Finchley Gunns. Currently in Australia playing for Melbourne ladies cricket club

Richard Bevan, NPAP member and ex Bristol City Council

My life in pest control started when I was still at school. My father was a pest technician for Insecta Laboratories then he moved to Ratsouris on Clerkenwell Road in London.

During the school holidays I would shadow Dad to a range of various sites which included Paignton Zoo, HMS Heron, RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall, the Royal Hotel in Guernsey, just to mention a few.

On leaving school in 1965 I joined a local pest control company, Vermin Services and looked after a range of contracts.

In 1970 I joined Bristol City Council as a rat catcher and enjoyed a change of focus in dealing with the public, rather than contracts, which could be challenging, but very satisfying. During 1978 I was promoted

to assistant manager and then, in 1984, to manager. This extended my skills base in promoting the services we could offer such as gull control and contracts. Then in 2014 I retired from Bristol City Council.

My life experience in working in the pest control industry included meeting some great and interesting people (and sometimes those that could be very challenging, if not downright difficult). I also dealt with plenty of other challenges including a wide range of pests, the management of a team of 20 staff, the running of a fleet of vehicles, the maintenance of buildings and, of course, all this had to be done within the budget.

All that said I could not have chosen a more satisfying job which, in truth, was more of a



vocation with its variety and challenges. I was never in a position where I dreaded Monday mornings. I was an inaugural member in the National Pest Advisory Panel (NPAP) and I'm still actively involved as I just can't seem to let go, well not yet anyway!

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EVENTS
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Last PestTech at Motorcycle venue

There's one extra reason to get along to PestTech 2016 this year and it has nothing to do with pest management. The 2016 event, which will be held on Wednesday 2 November, will be your last chance to view, for free, the great collection of motorcycles at the National Motorcycle Museum venue. The 2017 event will be moving to a new, as yet, undisclosed venue.

The National Motorcycle Museum in the West Midlands has hosted PestTech for the past 20 years. Organisers, the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA), are being tightlipped about the new location but say PestTech will remain in the Midlands and will continue to be held in November. However they did tell **Pest** that at NPTA they are all very excited about the move.

As **Pest** went to press, NPTA was meeting with the Motorcycle Museum to try to find extra space for more exhibitors. As of the end of September there were 48 exhibitors booked in for what is the heart of PestTech. All the UK distributors will be present, including newcomers RatPak along with all the major manufacturers. The exhibitor list also includes a range of organisations and companies providing support services, training and advice for pest professionals. Making a reappearance in its own right after a five year gap is Huck Nets. Also back after many years absence is rodent trap manufacturer, Kness from the USA.

New exhibitors for 2016 are:

- Inspector Pipes, who, as the name implies, sell cameras and other equipment for the inspection of drains and the like;
- Service Tracker, a systems solutions software/cloud technology business;
- Dutch company, the Bird Control Group, inventors of the Agrilaser Autonomic system shortlisted for the 2016 **Pest** Best Product Award and other bird deterrent systems;
- Cliverton Insurance, a specialist insurance company offering cost effective insurance tailored to pest control;
- Bureau Veritas UK, the company conducting the audits for CEPA certified accreditation, see page 14 of this issue.

The **Pest Control News** workshop continues to be a regular at the event. This year there's a double bill covering the rodenticide toxicity classification changes and the emerging threat posed by the Brown Dog Tick. Get along to the Kirkmichael Suite at 10.30 to find out what's happening and to get your questions answered.



Technical seminars

The programme of technical seminars will also be held in the Kirkmichael Suite. This year's agenda includes an update on rodenticide stewardship, details of the revised Codes of Best Practice for bees and glueboards plus a presentation explaining how you can get your business onto the Google map.

In a change from previous years, there will be no outdoor demonstrations this year.

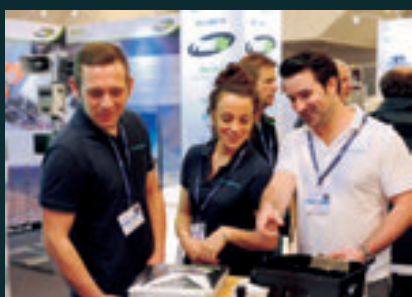
For those with strong constitutions, it doesn't all stop here! The exhibition closes at 16.00 – time enough to allow the exhibitors to pack-up and make their way to the Windmill Village hotel for the **Pest Control News** dinner.

All in all a very busy day. See you there.



Plan your trip with our quick guide to PestTech 2016

2 November 2016, The National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham
organised by:



Seminars

Kirkmichael Suite

Keep up-to-date

Wednesday
2 November

Pest systems that truly manage your business
by Mike Palmer-Day, Service Tracker

09.45 - 10.15

Getting on the 'Google Map'
by Amy Kelly of Kelly Environmental Services

12.15 - 13.00

CEPA Certified and EN 16636 - The standard for professional pest management
by Jessica Morgan, Bureau Veritas UK

13.15 - 13.45

Stewardship – what next?
by Dr Alan Buckle, Chairman of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)

14.00 - 14.30

Updated industry codes of best practice for bees and glueboards
by the Pest Management Alliance

14.45 - 15.15

Kirkmichael Suite

Workshop 10.30 - 12.00



The Pest Control News (PCN) workshop is an established part of the PestTech experience.

The 2016 workshop will include a presentation on the rodenticide toxicity classification changes and how they affect the pest control industry. There will be the usual opportunity to ask questions and to get guidance to ensure you stay ahead of the game. A speaker from Public Health England will also update delegates on the brown dog tick. PCN says the workshop is not to be missed and will be jam packed full of current material.

PROMPT
Register

Collect Your CPD

All workshops and seminars as well as actually attending PestTech, are worth BASIS Prompt professional pest controller register CPD points.

Make sure you collect yours. Call at the BASIS Prompt stand. Bring your membership card and BASIS will scan your details in.



For the last time this year, as a delegate to PestTech you get free access to Museum's collections so go and see all those amazing bikes!

The Exhibition

Doors open at 09.00

Exhibition closes at 16.00

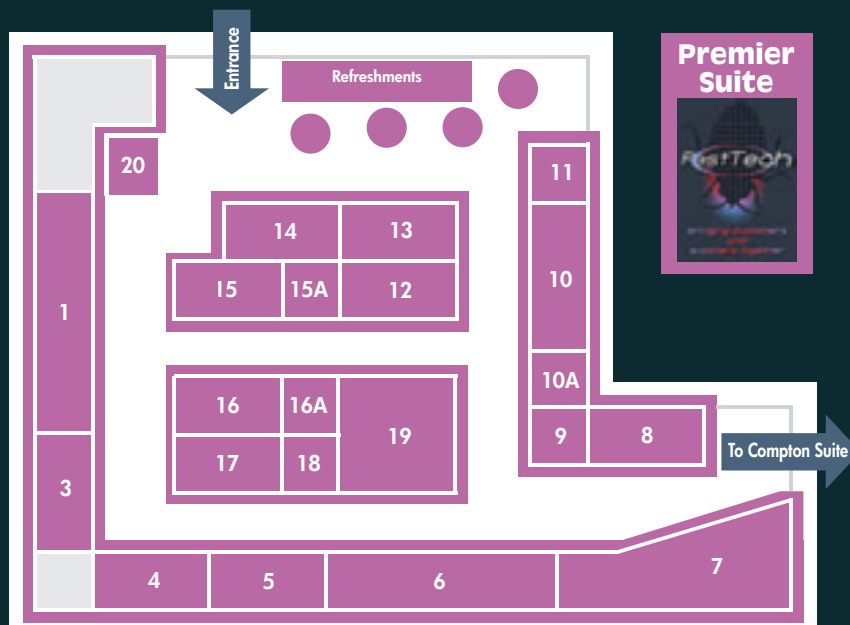
CPD points awarded for attendance

Exhibitor	No	Exhibitor	No
1env Solutions	6	iPest	14
Agrisense	27	Killgerm	50
ATEO	12	Kness	47
Barrettine	34	Lantra	29
BASF	32	Lodi UK	13
BASIS Prompt	9	NPTA	10
Bat Conservation Trust	16A	PelGar International	1
Bayer	26	Pelsis	21
Bell Laboratories	31	Pest	30
Bird Control Group	43	PestFix	19
Blattodea	20	Pest Trader	41
Bower Products	3	PestWest	38
BPCA	24	Rat Pak	39
Bradshaw Bennett	33	Rentokil Products	49
Bureau Veritas	5	Roythorne	11
Cliverton Insurance	44	RSPH	15A
Colin's Traps	4	Russell IPM	7
CRRU	37	Sentomol	17
Fourteen Acre Traps	46	ServicePro	40
Hockley International	28	Service Tracker	15
Huck Nets	48	Syngenta	36
Inspector Pipes	16	WaspBane	8
International Herpetological Society	25	W F Fountain	10A
International Pest Control	18	Woodstream	35

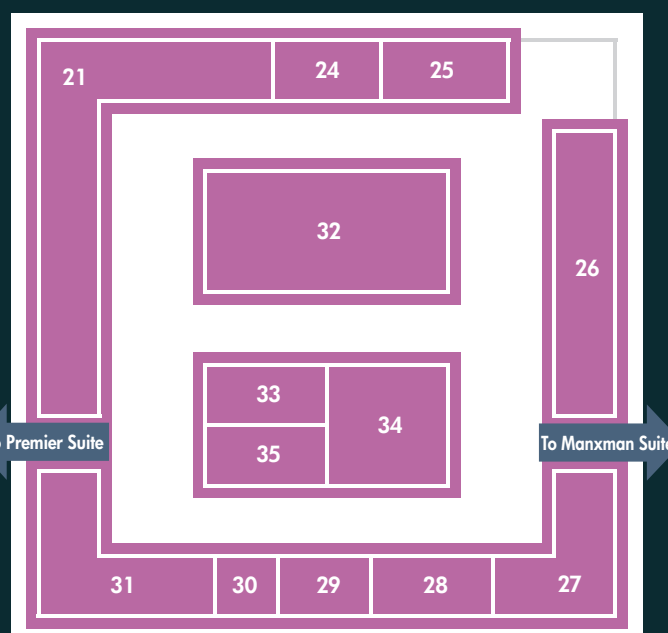
Refreshments

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

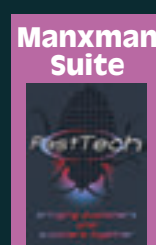
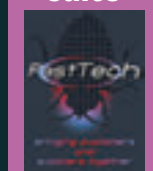
For those wanting something more substantial the Museum restaurant, on the first floor, provides sit-down meals at reasonable prices.



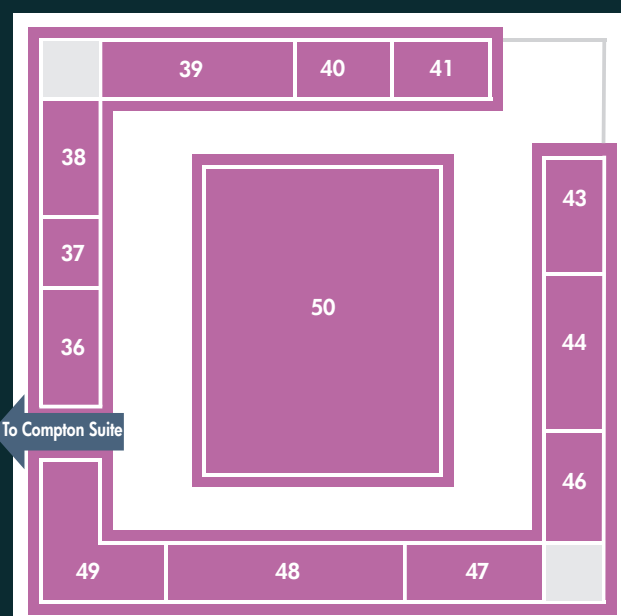
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Compton Suite



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Drain flies: a nuisance or a threat to public health?

In general, the sight of a small fly on the rim of a cup of coffee causes little alarm to the coffee drinker. The fly is generally brushed away without so much as a thought. But should the drinker be worried? Professor Moray Anderson, consultant entomologist at Killgerm and a member of the **Pest** Technical Advisory Board, reviews new research which suggests these flies could indeed be a public health pest of significance.



Drosophila funebris, right and above, sitting on the edge of a coffee cup



© Show Ryu

Small flies on coffee cups or anywhere else for that matter tend to be ignored, unless present in high numbers and causing a nuisance.

If the fly on that coffee cup had happened to be a housefly, then there may be more concern. This is because for a number of years there has been sound evidence illustrating the role of domestic and peri-domestic flies, such as the housefly (*Musca domestica*), in the transmission of many bacteria which are the causative agents of many food-borne illnesses.

However, the small fly in the picture on page 25, resting on the edge of the coffee cup is a fruit fly, *Drosophila funebris*. So, should the coffee drinker be concerned?

For fruit flies you need to 'think small'! They are black flies frequently grouped, along with other small flies, as belonging to the group known to those working within the public health pest control industry, as 'drain flies'.

An umbrella term

The designation 'drain flies' is an umbrella term for a number of commonly overlooked, yet cosmopolitan, small flies that are associated with moist, highly organic environments including drains, sewage treatment facilities, rotting vegetation and animal and human excrement.

Drain flies include species from a number of different families of flies:

- The fruit flies, Family Drosophilidae;
- The scuttle flies, Family Phoridae;
- Owl midges or moth flies, Family Psychodidae;
- The lesser dung flies, Family Sphaeroceridae
- Flies of the Family Sepsidae.

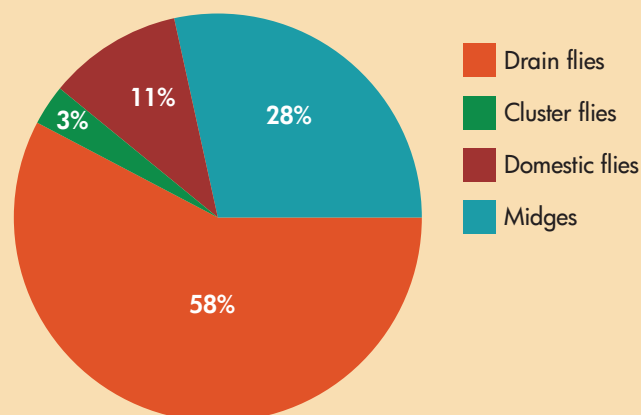
It is fair to say that drain flies have in the past been frequently considered to be only present in small numbers, merely constituting a slight nuisance and to be of little public health importance.

A recent study (Davies, M P, 2014, Isolation and characterisation of bacteria associated with flying Insects in hospitals, with particular emphasis on *Clostridium difficile* PhD thesis University of Aston) has shown that, far from these flies being an insignificant nuisance, they are, in fact, the most common fly species found within hospital premises.



One of the traps used during the research

Flies associated with UK hospitals 2000 to 2013



Source: Davies, M P, 2014, Isolation and characterisation of bacteria associated with flying Insects in hospitals, with particular emphasis on *Clostridium difficile* PhD thesis University of Aston

They far outweigh, in their numbers, flies like blowflies, houseflies, etc. In hospital premises there are numerous areas where these flies can find sites to exploit for their juvenile stages to complete their life cycle. They are, in fact, therefore much more numerous than is generally thought.

Their presence in large numbers, whilst it may constitute a nuisance does not, in itself, necessarily pose a health threat. The reason why houseflies are considered a health threat is, as mentioned above, the fact that they are frequently carrying on their exoskeleton, or in their gut, many bacterial pathogens which can cause food-borne illness in humans.

Drain flies and bacteria

Between 2006 and 2010 a number of environmental health masters students at the University of Birmingham carried out a series of research experiments to try to discover if drain flies do carry bacteria and, if so, do the bacteria they carry pose any threat to public health.

The experiments carried out were set up in order to discover the following:

- a) Are there bacteria present on drain flies?
- b) Are there bacteria of the group Enterobacteriaceae** present on the flies?
- c) If bacteria were present were the numbers of bacteria detected on the flies of public health significance?

** (Enterobacteriaceae – this group of bacteria are often termed 'indicator organisms'. Their presence on foodstuffs can be an indication of poor hygiene practices and post processing contamination by faecal and related enteric material. Within the group are many of the bacteria which cause food-borne infection in humans.)

Microbiology

The microbiological assays carried out on the flies started with a series of tests to indicate the aerobic colony count technique and the total viable count of bacteria on the flies. These assays provided an indication of the overall micro flora found on the fly samples.

In all cases tested the results from these experiments showed high levels of bacterial flora on all the drain flies.

The second set of experiments carried out on drain flies collected from a wide range of natural habitats including hospitals, domestic

and commercial kitchens and school kitchens showed that all the drain flies tested did have bacteria from the Enterobacteriaceae group present.

The standards set by PHLS (Public Health Laboratory Service) state that, if the Enterobacteriaceae colony counts exceed 104 CFU (Colony Forming Units) on any ready-to-eat foods (excluding fresh fruits and vegetables or sandwiches containing salad vegetables), they are deemed unacceptable.

High levels of bacteria found

The levels of the bacteria on the drain flies in all the experiments showed levels of Enterobacteriaceae much higher than the acceptable rate of 104 CFU.

The public health implications of this can be speculated upon.

Amongst the bacteria within this group are those which commonly cause food poisoning or food-borne infection. Food-borne infection is an active infection resulting from the ingestion of pathogen-contaminated foodstuffs.

Food poisoning is an international issue, causing not only serious illness and even death, but it also has great economic impact including putting additional strain on health services and time spent recovering away from the normal everyday activities such as education and work.

Frequently when there are outbreaks of food poisoning it is extremely difficult to pinpoint the cause of the outbreak. It is never routine when there are outbreaks of food-borne illness to check the local fly populations for bacterial load. Perhaps this should be routine, since the presence of examples of Enterobacteriaceae on so many of the small flies samples at such high concentrations suggests drain flies have a role in contamination of food stuffs and food preparation areas.



An owl midge or moth fly from the family Psychodidae

Control of drain flies

Drain flies are extremely common flies in domestic premises, hospital kitchens, school kitchens, etc and they are often ignored when pest control strategies are implemented.

The successful control of drain flies frequently involves changes to the structure of buildings, soil pipes and drainage systems. Therefore, for control to be wholly successful it is important to establish a system of cooperation between the pest control personnel and those in charge of the fabric of the buildings in which the problems have been detected.

Damp areas beneath machinery should be dried up and all accumulations of organic matter within the area where the drain flies have been located, no matter how small, must be removed. Only then should insecticidal treatment be carried out.

These damp, organic-rich areas are the locations where the larvae will be feeding and developing and unless these areas are tackled the development will continue and adult flies will continue to appear. The larvae of these flies are around 1-1.5 mm long and can be located in tiny gaps,



A scuttle fly from the family Phoridae

feeding on what looks like exceedingly small reservoirs of food. Areas may have the appearance of being exceedingly clean and still have small amounts of organic matter present which can sustain populations of drain fly larvae.

It is also highly probable that it is within these areas of rotting organic matter that the adult flies pick up the bacteria which are found on their external surfaces.

Conclusions

These preliminary studies looking into the possibility that these flies could be of public health significance have shown that the flies do indeed have the capability of carrying bacteria of significance. In addition, it has been shown that the flies examined in these studies all had high counts of such bacteria.

It is not unreasonable therefore to suggest that drain flies are of public health significance. As mentioned above, it may be a worthwhile exercise when environmental practitioners are carrying out microbiological assays of premises where high bacteria counts have been encountered that samples of any flies present should also be assayed.



Damp organic matter on the floor is where the immature stages of the drain fly larvae are found



Sniffing out bed bugs in the health & care sector

When we or our loved ones are sick, we fall upon the care sector to look after us. Whatever the reason for our need for care, it is a time of our life where we are at our most vulnerable. It is horrendous to think that, at this time, we may be at risk of bed bug activity and the subsequent stress it brings. A small, but dedicated, group of pest professionals focus on this area of bed bug management. Adam Juson of Merlin Environmental Solutions reports on this challenging, but very rewarding, aspect of professional pest management.

Over the past five years the levels of bed bug activity in the care sector have grown exponentially and their management has become a very specialised niche within the larger bed bug management sector.

The skill set needed to operate efficiently goes far beyond the need to be an exceptional bed bug technician. When dealing with vulnerable service users the communication aspect of our



Adam Juson

work is probably as important as the detection and eradication aspects.

All areas affected

All areas of the care industry appear to be affected, from general practice through to mental health and end of life care.

Obviously residential schemes bear the brunt of infestations, however, minor activity has been noted in outpatient schemes and first responder vehicles. Unfortunately, environments that are comfortable for patients are just as comfortable for bed bugs.

To a bed bug the care home environment is a warm, stable, harbourage, a rich home with hundreds of concealed voids, all within a few feet of a feed. Feeding opportunities are unrestricted as the service



user often has limited mobility, living, eating and sleeping in their room.

Daily exposure

The transient nature of the care sector puts residential units at daily exposure to bed bugs. As with all bed bug infestations, to achieve proper long term management of the problem you need to thoroughly understand the dynamics of spread, both within the scheme you are dealing with, at the point of inoculation and beyond.

There is no point in treating infestations in care home environments reactively. Indeed, this is where most treatments fail. The internal and external spread dynamics are very complex and often include communal lounge and dining room infestations as well as activity within the patient transport service. This can be very challenging to tackle, particularly if multiple private and public providers are servicing the site.

All bed bug management must start with accurate detection. Search dogs are the obvious choice in these circumstances. However, this is probably one of the most challenging search environments for dogs, not just in terms of the complexity of the search, but also the physical demands placed on the dogs and handlers.

Residential units, in particular, have a wide range of often very strong competing scents that both dog and handler need to train to deal with and ignore. In addition, both dogs and handler need to train to work around people who may be prone to verbal and physical outbursts.

In such environments an independent, environmentally sound dog, that thrives in free search is needed. All canine indications must be visually confirmed, photographed and documented, ready to be processed for treatment and to gain further understanding of the population spread dynamics.

Solutions

Chemical control systems are not popular due to the time frame a room would be out of order and the chemical exposure service users would encounter. Coupled with the elevated chemical tolerance reported around the world, most health sector bed bug control systems are not reliant on insecticides.

Topical heat has considerable advantages and is used as the mainstay of health sector bed bug management. The steam generators designed for bed bug control have been developed from the units used for infection control in hospitals.

If coupled with vacuum removal of mobile



life stages and application of a residual desiccant, steam offers the most reliable and time efficient eradication process for light to moderate infestations. However, if the infestation has spread into the motorised components of beds, or into medical equipment, steam cannot be used.

In cases where the infestation has spread to water sensitive equipment, or if the infestation is very heavy and dispersed, forced air heat treatment gives the best result. If applied in a controlled manner, it has no adverse effects on infested equipment. In care home environments the levels of personal effects within the treatment area can increase the preparation and treatment time considerably. s

When working in the care sector the protocols needed to successfully manage bed bugs must take into account the service users needs, the patient flow within the site, any restrictions on chemical usage and the pressure on the scheme to maintain service levels.

Successful management can only be achieved with the support of the scheme management as often alterations to their work practices will be needed as part of the bed bug management programme. In common with other bed bug sites and infestations, a bespoke system and process needs to be developed if long term management is to be achieved. It is most definitely not a case of just 'treat and go'!

How widespread is the problem?

Data on the extent of the problem is hard to come by. In our own **Pest**/BASF National UK Pest Management Survey we know that even among those reporting that they do some bed bug work, it only makes up around 8% to 9% of their activity. Drilling down to those who's business comprises 70% or more bed bug management our sample size becomes extremely small. As an indication of the extent of the problem however, we can say that amongst these specialist, around 9% of their work is in schools/hospitals/prisons/care homes, 80% in domestic dwellings and the remainder in hotels, restaurants and offices. Looking back at the 2012 figures and again with a very small sample, but there was no bed bug control work reported as taking place in the schools/hospitals/prisons/care home category.

Looking at 2015 data from the USA, where the US National Pest Management Association does conduct a specialist bed bug survey, we find that bed bugs continue to be most common in domestic dwellings, with 95% and 93% of respondents, respectively, encountering them in apartments/condominiums and single-family homes. Three-quarters (75%) of companies also found infestations in hotels and motels, unchanged from 2013. 58% of respondents reported encounters in nursing homes versus 46% in 2013 and 25% in 2010. In hospitals the figures were 36% in 2015 versus 33% in 2013 and 12% in 2010.

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And people wonder why they have fox problems!

This urban fox has certainly made itself at home. And this home happens to be the leafy garden of a suburban house in Shoreham, West Sussex.

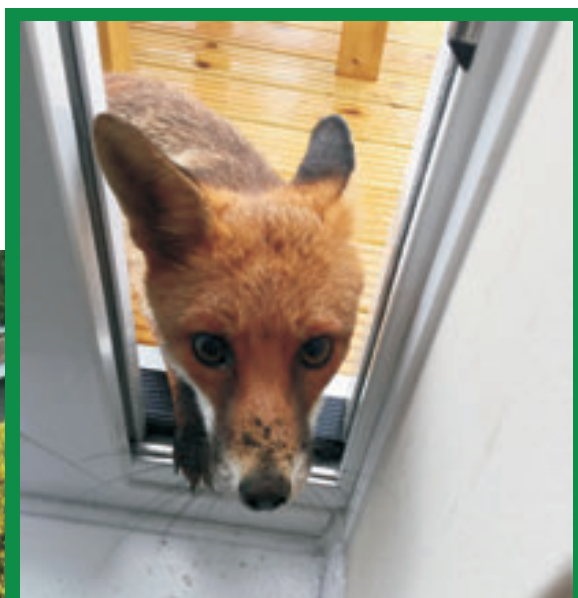
It is believed this young vixen has been cast aside by her mother, so has adopted a surrogate family. Each night she comes to be fed and her behaviour is more like a dog than a wild animal. In fact she has twice been found making herself at home in the living room of the house! As can be seen from the pictures, she's equally relaxed in the garden.

To prevent any further incursions into the house, and much to the vixen's obvious disgust, a child gate has had to be erected at the back door.

From examples like this, it's quite easy to understand how attacks on humans occur. A prime example being the case, back in June 2010, of the nine-month-old Koupparis twins who were attacked by a fox as they slept upstairs in their family home in Stoke Newington, East London.



Relaxing on the patio. This young vixen has certainly made herself at home in the leafy suburbs of West Sussex



Let me in, it's starting to rain!



Having a snooze on the drive

A new way to snare

The use of snares to catch foxes has been a political 'hot potato' for some years with several organisations and politicians calling for an all-out ban. But, here, Tony Rolfe, a Hampshire-based gamekeeper who also holds responsibility for education at the National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO), reports on a new and humane fox snare.

There are many tools that assist me in my job as a gamekeeper, but the snare is one of the most important. Through centuries, gamekeepers have used them to catch foxes and, without them, my job would become a lot harder.

Over the years, the snare has basically stayed the same; a wire snare anchored to the ground one way or another. This was long accepted, but with increasing campaigns from anti-fieldsports groups, the snare has been put under greater pressure to be banned. The shooting industry needed to seek improvements to save its use and, to achieve this, looked to the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT). As a result of several years' research, funded in part by Defra, who also wanted to see progress, the GWCT's predation team came up with a much improved specification. The version of it that I have been using is called the DB snare and, used correctly, it addresses the claim that snares have historically been indiscriminate.

New breakaway clip

The main feature of the DB snare is the use of a break away clip that has been designed to release badgers and deer but still hold foxes. The stop has also been set to a point that hares should escape and foxes will not. There are also two swivels, one at the anchor and one half way along and, most importantly, a sophisticated loop closure called a Relax-a-lock.

This component was brought over from the USA where it was developed for catching coyotes. The Relax-a-lock moves along the wire smoothly when the fox runs through and results in an instant catch, far better than any of the old snares I have used in the past. Once the fox is caught the Relax-a-lock grips tight enough to hold snug around the neck but will give once the fox relaxes, ensuring it remains unharmed until humanely despatched.



The main feature of the DB snare is the use of a break away clip designed to release badgers and deer but still hold foxes

The two swivels allow the fox to twist and spin without kinking the wire so as long as you set the snare correctly, you should always have a capture alive and in good condition waiting for you to despatch it. The correct method of setting and using these new snares is well described in the Welsh

Government's *Code of best practice on the use of snares in fox control*, published in 2015. You can also find it on the Welsh Government website www.gov.wales and in the **Pest** Library. An equivalent code for England is due to be published any day.

The clever bit

When you first hear that a snare has a clip that will release badgers, your immediate thought may be that if it can release badgers it will also release foxes. Well this is the clever bit.

The clip is set to a releasing strain such that only badgers and deer should get out. The DB snare was tested by 38 keepers from all over England and an exact breakaway force of 33.5kg, with only a 2kg tolerance, was developed to give a 95% hold rate on foxes, which is identical to hold rate of a traditional snare. Only part failure, or incorrect setting, can result in the loss of a fox.

With regards to badgers, the clip is not totally reliable and the snare will hold some badgers. I think this is due to the size difference of individuals within the badger population – or maybe some just don't pull hard enough to get away. But another advantage of the DB snare is that if you do catch a badger, it too will be held without harm and you can easily release it the moment you find it by striking the snare wire whilst under tension, causing the clip to release. So there is no need to get too close to the sharp end!

For a teal (the rod that holds the snare in place), the DB snare was developed using a copper wire but I use 3.15mm low tensile straining wire which I cut into 45-60cm lengths and I bend over an



The two swivels allow the fox to twist and spin without kinking the wire



inch at one end. This helps to stop the tealer from twisting once in the ground. The straining wire fits into a clip on the snare, enabling you to set the snare to the size you require. A good tip is to carry a screwdriver when the ground is hard to make a hole for the tealer.

For an anchor, I use 25mm x 25mm x 4mm right angle steel cut into 30-40cm lengths. I make a point at one end and drill a 6mm hole at the top so I can attach a 5mm D shackle. The anchor must be knocked right into the ground until it is flush so that the snare cannot catch on it, nor a caught animal get harmed.

There have been occasions when the redesign of things like traps imposed on our industry have left us with something that is less efficient or impractical. The DB snare could not be more different. I have used both traditional and DB snares and I find the DB snare far superior. The ease of use, build quality and, most importantly, how effective it is at catching foxes, sets it well above the traditional snare. This DB snare is based on the GWCT's design trialled by professional keepers to a total of 120,000 hours of snares being set, more than any other fox trap in the world.

A different approach

Redeveloping snaring through GWCT research was not just about the design of the snare; it also looked in detail at the way we go about using them. Instead of the old system of random blanket snaring, the research supports target snaring instead and I have moved to this. In place of randomly setting 100 snares in an area in the hope of a chance capture, I set 10-15 in a specific site to catch a specific fox. Either I have seen a fox, smelt one or found scats or other signs. By using this method I reduce the chance of catching non-target species. I can normally catch a targeted fox in this way within a week.

Any problems?

In the beginning the main issue was cost. The very first trial snares cost around £9

Buying the BD snare

DB snares from Perdix can be ordered via the NGO's online shop.

All orders placed through the NGO website result in a donation from Perdix to NGO funds
www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk

Or order direct from Perdix
www.perdixwildlifesupplies.co.uk



each to make. A price anything like this would have killed the initiative stone dead. So the NGO and GWCT joined forces with Perdix Wildlife Supplies to find a way to keep the build quality of the snares, but at a cost below £3.

After nearly a year of finding and break-testing different swivels, wires and clips, Perdix managed to bring the DB snare down in price. The cost can be reduced further over time by re-using the special components. If you don't want to do this yourself, Perdix offers a rebuilding service.

Crucially, the marketed snare performs just as well as the original trial versions and, remember too, that using the targeted approach to snaring, you need far fewer snares than with old snaring methods.

Perdix, with the DB snare, is one of the forerunners in the production of the new


style of fox snares. I also know that other producers are beginning to develop their own versions.

In these days of modern technology, where we spend thousands of pounds on thermal imaging and night vision equipment, just think how many new style snares you could buy with the same money – and the snares will still be working long after you are in bed!

As gamekeepers, we face many challenges that change how we go about our daily jobs. The new style of snares and snaring has handed us some hope for the future. If you follow the snaring Code of good practice (as in Wales) and use the new style snares in the correct way, I promise the results will speak for themselves and that you, as the setter, will feel safer using them. Above all else the new system catches foxes!




Our thanks to the National Gamekeepers' Organisation who first published this article in *Keeping the Balance* magazine summer 2016.



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What a whopper!

Another giant wasps' nest found

There have been plenty of reports of giant wasps' nests in the national and regional press, and even on TV just lately, so perhaps the Indian summer we've been experiencing has made it a better wasp year, at least in some parts of the country.



Paul O'Leary from Shreddies measures the wasps' nest

This giant, discovered in the attic of a Leicestershire business, Shreddies, wasn't active. It was estimated to be two years old. It measured 42 inches (just over a metre) in circumference. That's big but it's nowhere near as big as the world record.



According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the largest wasp nest ever recorded was found on a farm at Waimaukai, New Zealand, in April 1963. It was so heavy that it had fallen from the tree in which it had been hanging onto the ground, where it had then split into two. When whole, it measured 3.7m long, and was 1.75m in diameter and approximately 5.5m in circumference. It had probably been constructed by *Vespula germanica*, it claims, but it does sound more like a hornets' nest!

It's got nothing much to do with the story but the business itself – Shreddies produces an unusual product – flatulence filtering underwear! Mr O'Leary's other business, based on the same site, is deVol, manufacturers of designer furniture and kitchens.

Dangers of DIY highlighted

According to BBC news online, a garage was destroyed and a house damaged by smoke as two DIY pest controllers attempted to burn a wasps' nest in Bletchley on 2 October. Buckinghamshire Fire Service commented: "We strongly advise people to contact a professional pest controller rather than try to do it themselves. ...using fire to tackle a wasps' nest is the number one thing not to do."

More than one in ten UK species threatened with extinction

A new report, the *State of Nature 2016*, has delivered the clearest picture to date of the status of our native species across land and sea. Crucially, the report which was published on 14 September, attributes much of the impending threat to changing agricultural land management, climate change and sustained urban development. Together it says these threaten many of Britain's best loved species such as water voles – the fastest declining mammal.

The report reveals that more than half (56%) of UK species studied have declined since 1970, while more than one in ten (1,199 species) of the nearly 8,000 species assessed in the UK are under threat of disappearing altogether.

It also highlights a severe lack of knowledge on the trends of most of the UK's plant and animal species.

Quantitative trends are available for just 5% of the 59,000 or so terrestrial and freshwater species in the UK and for very few of the 8,500 marine species. Knowledge is strongly biased towards vertebrates and we know little about the fortunes of many invertebrates and fungi.

This ground breaking report has been produced by a new partnership of 25 organisations involved in the recording, researching and conservation of nature in the UK.

It is not all doom and gloom. There are examples of how individuals, organisations and governments can work together to stop the loss and bring back nature where it has been lost.

A copy of the report can be found in the **Pest** Library.



EU invasive species list published

On 13 July 2016 the European Commission published a list of invasive alien species of EU concern. It includes 23 animals and 14 plants.

Amongst those listed are the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*), grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), Muntjac deer (*Muntiacus reevesii*) and the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). Full details at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm

Species on the list will now be subject to the restrictions and measures set out in the EU Regulation on invasive alien species.

These include restrictions on keeping, importing, selling, breeding and growing alien species. Member States will also be required to take measures for early detection and rapid eradication of new sightings of these species. There are also duties to manage species that are already widely spread in a Member States' territory such as in the case of the Asian hornet, recently spotted on the UK mainland – see page 12.



Global threat from invasive species

One-sixth of the Earth's land is highly vulnerable to invasive species and most countries have a limited capacity to protect their natural resources from non-native animals, plants or microbes, a global analysis shows. Invasive species can spread quickly and dramatically alter landscapes, ecosystems and human health and livelihoods, often with harmful consequences.



Researchers from multiple institutions, predominantly in the US, teamed up to create the first worldwide analysis of invasive species threats, providing a global-scale outlook on how the introduction and spread of invasive species could shift in coming decades as a result of increasing globalisation and climate change. They also assessed individual nations' abilities to manage existing invasive species and respond to new ones, the first country-level evaluation of its kind.

Invasive species commonly travel as stowaways or contaminants in imported goods, planes and ships or are imported as exotic pets or plants that escape or are released into the wild. They can quickly change the nature of a whole region and often out-compete native species for resources and habitat.

A copy of the report, *Global threats from invasive alien species in the twenty-first century and national response capacities* as published in *Nature Communications* can be found in the **Pest** Library.

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New US bed bug code

The National Pest Management Association in the USA has released a revised version of the *NPMA Best Management Practices for Bed Bugs (BMPs)*. Originally developed in early 2011, this most recent revision adds clarification and updates practitioners on the most modern thinking regarding methods of bed bug management.

Whilst some sections, legal for example, are relevant to the US situation only, anyone the world over would get benefit from referring to some sections – bed bugs are, after all, the same internationally! In particular those sections covering: client co-operation & treatment preparations; bed bug detection; the use of canine teams; integrated pest management; surrounding units and post-treatment evaluation.

Copies from NPMA or from the **Pest Library**.

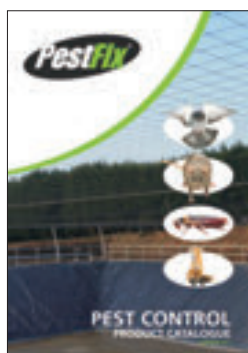


New PestFix catalogue

Bringing their expanding product range totally up-to-date, PestFix has just published a new catalogue – version 16.1.

Amongst other additions, this includes the range of Bird Shock, Birchmeier and Gloria sprayers now sold by PestFix plus the range of Agrilaser products.

Drop by their stand at PestTech to collect your copy.



Work studies from Killgerm

For those readers who may not already be familiar with these, Killgerm produces a first-class selection of practical work studies guides. Recently updated, virtually every pest you are likely to encounter is covered – be it ants, bed bugs, wasps, flies or vertebrate pests.

Situations such as flood, waste management and proofing are included, as is one specifically aimed at how to market your business.

Copies are downloadable from www.killgerm.com/resources/work-studies



Market reports fill in the global gaps

A recurring question in pest control is – how big is the market? Targeted primarily at manufacturers and consultants, two recently published reports aim to provide the answers.

The first, *Pest Control Market – Global Forecast to 2021*, looks at pest control in its broadest sense, encompassing commercial, industrial, residential and agricultural. It projects the market to be worth US\$ 22.04 billion (£17.29 billion) by 2021.

The second report, *Global Pest Control Services Market 2016 – 2020* solely covers the professional pest control service sector. It details that the pest control service market has shown a substantial growth in the recent year. The need for an hygienic and pest free environment has boosted the need and demand for pest control services. It estimates that the global services market will grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 5.52% by 2020. This growth is mainly due to increasing economic activity, increase in demand due to rising awareness, urbanisation, increasing middle class population, rising spending by governments on public health issues and stringent regulations on hygiene and sanitation. The various market segments and relevant companies are covered.

Copies of both from www.researchandmarkets.com



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PiedPiper on the international march

We have featured the development of the new rodent control device, the PiedPiper, before. See **Pest** issue 43: February & March 2016 for the last report. Here, project leader, Steve Goode, provides a further update.

First, to recap, a rodent passes through a tunnel device, where it breaks a laser beam and gets sprayed with pesticide. The rat then carries on as usual until the poison takes effect and it dies.

It is interesting to learn that the New Zealand (NZ) group who are involved in PiedPiper have started to put together the regulatory documentation required for registration of the product, initially in NZ and then in Australia.

With investors in New Zealand, a new company has been set-up, AAT NZ Ltd, to handle development and regulatory affairs and a regulatory consultant has been engaged to liaise with the numerous environmental groups, government departments and commercial organisations.

Patents have been filed in all major countries with the intellectual property covering 4.3 billion of the six billion people on earth.

PiedPiper held a conference in Holland at the end of May for interested parties from EU countries. One of the topics covered was the successful trials of the Pest Control Device (PCD) at Nairobi University in Kenya.

The trial was done using PiedPiper protocols and the data is being collated for publication in peer reviewed journals. The trial also involved a trap shyness study without toxin. The rats' initial responses were to avoid the devices but soon they began to use the units uninhibited.

Trials in Europe are still pending and will use the latest PCD with a different solenoid that is more solvent resistant and this is expected to be finalised during October.

Brexit was, of course, a shock to all of us and has some implications for the project. We might have to set up a company out of the UK to continue to be eligible for EU funding – the next stage being Euros 2.25m.



The PiedPiper Pest Control Device on trial at Nairobi University, Kenya

With the structure of the PiedPiper consortium the logical country for Biotronics would be Southern Ireland but due to currency variations the cost of regulatory approvals in the EU will increase.

The current development strategy is to go with the whirlwind of activity in NZ, followed by registration in the USA and then to look at the viability of the EU market.

www.piedpipertech.com



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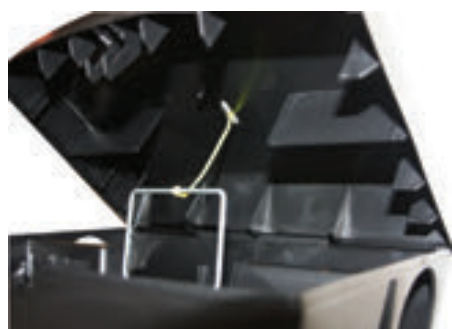
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Optional inspection slot added to bait box

The popular AF Atom rat box from Killgerm has been updated with improvements to its functionality, making it more adaptable for pest controllers.

A new optional inspection slot now features in the lid of the box. This enables pest controllers to see at a glance if the trap has been triggered making inspections quicker and easier. The slot can be easily cut out of the lid with a sharp knife following the impressed moulding. Additional brightly coloured cables ties can be purchased which makes identification of triggered traps easier to detect from a distance.



www.killgerm.com

Irresistible! An attractant spray for rodents

In what could well be a European first, comes an attractant to encourage rodents into traps. No, not a block, but an attractant to spray.

Presented in an aerosol can that could be mistaken for your shaving foam, NARA Spray lays a highly attractive trail leading rodents to the trap, for example a Gorilla trap snap trap – seen below right. The aroma, explains the developer Futura, is extremely attractive to both rats and mice, offering even better results in non-toxic pest control. It has a 100% pure vegetable content, is non-toxic and allergen-free, so is suitable to use within food manufacturing sites.

To use, shake the can first, then spray as much as is required to lay one or more trails leading towards the bait station or trap. For ease of use, the aerosol is especially designed for spraying with the can held upside-down.

It will stay attractive for up to two months, depending on the amount sprayed and the ambient temperature.



www.emitter.info



New non-poison trap solutions

Using a unique combination of wire mesh baffles, a pre-baiting system and two powerful Koro traps, the Perdix tunnels are an ideal non-poison solution for controlling rats and grey squirrels, says the manufacturer. The tunnels are available in two sizes. The smaller version houses two Koro rodent traps for rats whilst the larger tunnel, pictured below, uses two Koro large rodent traps to control for both rats and grey squirrels.

To improve efficiency, the central area of the tunnel is designed as a bait dispenser to allow pre-baiting, prior to setting. Once target animals are taking the bait, the traps can be placed in the tunnel.

To prevent non-target captures, each trapping tunnel is equipped with galvanised wire mesh guards at each end. These can, however, be removed for cleaning or when pre-baiting. The tunnels also have an internal baffle in front of each trap to ensure animals are positioned correctly when struck by the trap and so killed humanely.



www.perdixwildlifesupplies.co.uk

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Time to vote

Which of our fabulous finalist products has helped you the most as a pest professional? Take a look at the 14 fantastic new products shortlisted by **Pest** readers. You can vote for two products via the postal voting form below, or by email to editor@pestmagazine.co.uk (include your name & organisation) or vote online at

www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/september/voting-time-in-2016-best-product-award

Your second choice will be taken into account in the event of a tie. To be counted votes must be in before midnight on 31 October 2015. The top three products will be announced during PestTech on 2 November.

best
product
award
2016
pest



Sparrow 'Trap door' indoor capture system
from Pest Trader



Phobi Larvox insect growth regulator
from Lodi UK



Snap'Em rodent gel attractants
from Russell IPM



Protecta Shield bait station
from Bell Laboratories



Biopren 6 EC IGR & insecticide
from Bábolna Bio



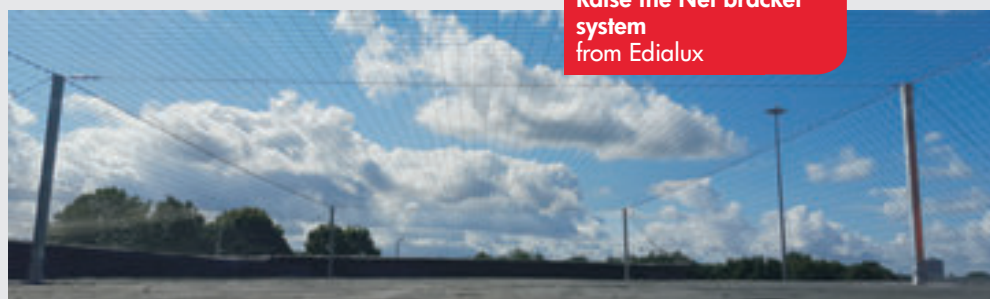
Alfasect insecticide
from Hockley International



The Bugo carpet bed bug & insect monitoring device
from Edialux



SX Dotz insect gel bait platform
from Edialux



Raise the Net bracket system
from Edialux



Defender Post & Wire Holder system
from Jones and Son

**AgriLaser Autonomic
laser bird dispersal
system from PestFix**



**Aquatain AMF
liquid mosquito film
from Barretine**



**Aura black EFK
from Insect-O-Cutor**



**Vazor DE powder
from Killgerm**

Vote now

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

1

2

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

- 1 Readers may vote for two products, but may only submit one voting form;
 - 2 Manufacturers/distributors and their employees cannot vote for their own product.
 - 3 Votes submitted after midnight on 31 October 2016 will not be counted.
- You can find all the legal stuff at www.pestmagazine.co.uk

best
product
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2016
pest

Pest Test 47

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 *Rodenticide stewardship now with teeth* (pages 8 & 9), *Drain flies* (pages 25 to 27) and *Sniffing out bed bugs in the care sector* (pages 28 & 29) 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 What big change for buyers of rodenticides has just come into force?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) No proof of competence, no rodenticide sale	<input type="checkbox"/> c) No purchase order number, no rodenticide sale
<input type="checkbox"/> b) No university degree, no rodenticide sale	<input type="checkbox"/> d) No credit card, no rodenticide sale
- 2 What is the primary objective of the Rodenticide Stewardship Regime?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) To meet the requirements of COSHH	<input type="checkbox"/> c) To make your life difficult
<input type="checkbox"/> b) To stop the use of glueboards	<input type="checkbox"/> d) To minimise risks to non-target species
- 3 Which flies were found to be associated with hospitals in the biggest number?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Midges	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Drain flies
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Domestic flies	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Cluster flies
- 4 What is the Enterobacteriaceae colony count that PHSL says is unacceptable in ready-to-eat foods?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 4 CFU	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 104 CFU
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 14 CFU	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 1004 CFU
- 5 What conclusion did the research into drain flies come to?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) They carry no known bacteria	<input type="checkbox"/> c) They are just a nuisance
<input type="checkbox"/> b) They are of public health significance	<input type="checkbox"/> d) They are so small it doesn't matter if they carry bacteria
- 6 In the BASF/**Pest** survey, what percentage of bed bug specialists' work is conducted in schools/hospitals/prisons/care homes?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Around 90%	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Around 9%
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Around 80%	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Around 8%

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And the winner is...



In the last edition of **Pest** (Issue 46) and on our website we asked readers to identify what had caused the damage to the walls of a Devon long house and what course of action they would recommend. For the winner, PestFix kindly offered as a prize, one of their Agrilaser handheld bird dispersal lasers worth over £700.

We thought readers would find this easy, as Matt England from PestFix identified the culprit just from a description over the phone! So, what caused the damage? A great spotted woodpecker.

Dave Archer of DKA Pest Control, who took the photos, explains: "This spring the owners of the house heard 'knocking'. Something was banging away on the house wall. Every time they went out to see what it was, 'it' flew away. Whatever it was, was very timid. Within quite a short space of time, 'it' was through the wattle and daub, and only then could the culprit be identified as its head was sticking out – a great spotted woodpecker. Excavation work continued. It looked as if the bird was trying to build a nest. However, it finally gave up and vacated the spot. At this point the owners filled in all the holes with quick setting concrete. As we all know, this bird species, as most others, is protected so had the woodpecker set-up home permanently, there is nothing the home owners could have done until the nest was vacated."

So who won the Agrilaser?

Of the replies we got, no-one correctly identified the actual species, but Lewis Jenkins, managing director of Check Services, said it was a woodpecker and recommended detailed appropriate action. So congratulations, Lewis, you are the winner.

A close-runner up, who will receive a special **Pest** award for humour is Dave Nubel, managing director of London-based Protec. He correctly identified the culprit as a woodpecker, describing it as a 'myopic woodpecker' and the treatment, he recommended 'an appointment with avian Specsavers'.

Tony Smith from All Aspects Pest Control said: "The photo looks like the wall rendering has been dug away; bird damage, by crows or seagulls either searching through loose render for insects or using the render to grind down food in their guts."

The next most common responses were house martins, sand martins or swallows. Crows and seagulls also feature. Masonry bees got a good mention and maybe by saying it was in Devon, this caused one person to suggest termites!

The six runners-up in the prize draw will each get a **Pest** torch.

Diary dates

18-21 October 2016

PestWorld 2016

Washington Convention Center/Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, Washington State, USA
www.pestworld2016.org/

2 November 2016

PestTech 2016

National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham B92 0EJ
www.npta.org.uk/pesttech

16-18 November 2016

Parasitec 2016

Paris Event Center, 20 Avenue de la Porte de la Villette,
75019 Paris, France
www.parasitec.org/

30 November to 2 December 2016

Global Bed Bug Summit

JW Marriott Indianapolis, 10 S West Street, Indiana
46204 USA
www.npmapestworld.org/education-events/upcoming-events/global-bed-bug-summit/

2017

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/>

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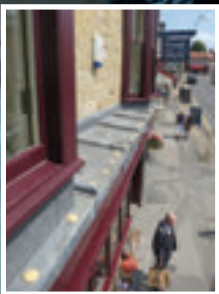
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