

pest

The independent UK pest management magazine

Wasps sorted? Think again!

Issue 61
February & March 2019



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don't forget the drains



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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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Embracing change

Change is often viewed with suspicion. But, something that questions accepted wisdom and challenges us to think again is often very good for us. Whilst moving out of our comfort zone may initially feel a bit weird, just because it's always been done that way doesn't mean there isn't another way, or, even, a better way.

Take the label changes making that old favourite, Ficam D, an indoor only product (pages 8-10). Initial reactions might be: It's a disaster! But, if the change leads pest professionals to question what they are doing, it may be no bad thing. Does that nest actually need to be controlled at all? Are there more environment-friendly options that could be used?

Changing behaviour to get to the root of the problem, rather than treating the symptoms, is a key take home message in our feature on drain defects and rodent control (pages 15-17). Likewise, the article on whether to leave, collect or re-use bait boxes when a contract changes hands (pages 26-27) also questions accepted practice.

Of course, some things don't change. PestEx is just around the corner – it is really two years since the last one and this issue sees the launch of two annual **Pest** events – the search for the next Best Product Award winner (page 37) and the 2019 National UK Pest Management Survey (page 31). Enjoy...

Frances McKim

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Bye bye Ben

Ben Massey, the marketing and communications manager at the British Pest Control Association, left the association in early February. Although Ben



is going to pastures new, it won't all be strange as he was head hunted by former BPCA CEO, Simon Forrester, and now joins Simon as his director of marketing and communications at the National Association of Jewellers.

Ben joined BPCA in July 2016. Since his arrival, he oversaw the redevelopment of the website, magazine and communication channels, as well as introducing initiatives such as the Contract Sharing Network and the British Pest Management Awards.

Ben said: "I'd like to think I leave the BPCA brand in better shape than when I arrived, ready for someone new to come in and realise the potential of the many exciting projects and opportunities that lie in wait."

A trio of acquisitions for Cleankill

Following the purchase of Bristol-based Good Riddance Pest Control at the end of 2018, Croydon-based Cleankill has now completed the acquisition of Pest Control Bucks and Bird Control Sussex. Both purchases follow the retirement of the current owners: John Butler at Bird Control Sussex and Gerard and Joanne Ashcroft at Pest Control Bucks.

Operating from Hove, Bird Control Sussex has been providing specialist bird control services in Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Dorset for over 30 years. Pest Control Bucks is another long-established pest control business. It provides high-quality pest control solutions throughout the Buckinghamshire area and, interestingly, is one of very few companies to hold a licence for the control of the edible dormouse (*Glis glis*).

Commenting on the expansion, Cleankill's managing director, Paul Bates, said: "These purchases are great additions to the Cleankill family. Both companies have exemplary reputations with strong customer bases and, like Cleankill, they understand the importance of professionalism and excellent customer service."



John Butler, right, the birdman, hands



Gerard & Joanne Ashcroft (3rd & 4th from left) with Ian

Flying off to pastures new

All in the pest control industry will be sad to hear of the retirement of Nigel Batten. Nigel seems to have been around forever – from 1973 to be precise! He will be at PestEx, so say goodbye to him then. Like many in the industry, Nigel began life at Rentokil, working as a second man on the sewer team, baiting for rats in central London. Not a very glamorous start, but he soon found himself with a foot round in Victoria, followed by a territory with a van in South London. Working through the servicing roles, he ended up as a branch manager.



Practical experience over, he moved in 2000 to the supply side of the industry. First this was at Network, where he soon became known as 'Network Nigel' and then on to Killgerm. Urban bird training and problem solving became his pet subject.

Retirement now beckons. And very pleasant too, as Nigel lives on the Dorset coast and has a son in Indonesia, so he and his wife will regularly be migrating to warmer climes.

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NORDISK INNOVATION



Heat treatment underway to defrost the Mansfield Town pitch ahead of a crucial game on Saturday 2 February

Thermokil saves the day

Lifelong Mansfield Town supporter, Ryan Overton, came to the Stags rescue ahead of a crucial match against Macclesfield Town on Saturday 2 February.

Ryan, a director of Thermokil Insect Control Services, the Mansfield based company offering heat-based pest control service across the UK was contacted by head groundsman at Mansfield Town, Michael Merriman. Could Ryan help defrost what was likely to be a badly frozen pitch ahead of the game on Saturday?

Ryan didn't hesitate. Friday morning he was at the club to survey the problem. He provided multiple heat treatment kits to attempt defrosting.

He told **Pest**: "The initial test on the Friday went very well so Saturday morning I returned to repeat the exercise. I'm pleased to say the pitch passed the referee's inspection and the game was allowed to go ahead. Mansfield won 3-1 and went 7 points clear in the automatic promotion places."

A backhanded complement

Martin Rowell of Red Rose Pest Control Services from Rossendale in Lancashire was a little taken aback when he – or rather a sheet from one of his giveaway notepads – appeared in the online version of *The Sun*.

The sheet had been used to give a customer at a local café a receipt. The comments posted by readers who saw this were encouragingly positive.

"Always reassuring when the café you're in writes the bill out on the free notepaper they got from their pest control company."

Another said: "I guess that's your reassurance that their pests have been removed."

And another: "At least they know there's a problem and are dealing with it!"

The amusing thing is, Martin has no idea how the notepad found its way to the café, as it is not one of his customers.



Oh... the irony!

Andrew Maltby, a pest controller for Nottingham City Council (NCC), got an amusing surprise when he took his Honda NC700 for a pre winter service. On removing the air filter the mechanic discovered a mouse had made himself, or maybe herself, a home in the filter.

Andrew has worked for NCC for nine years looking after all types of pests mainly within domestic properties. He lives in the Ashfield area of Nottinghamshire, some way away from the office, so a fully functioning bike is a priority. "How my bike continued to run

amazed me," said Andrew, "Maybe the fuel economy will improve now!"





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Two for one!

Bristol-based Octavius Hunt welcomed Deb Christopher to the team in late 2018 as quality, health & safety manger. Deb has almost 20 years experience of the food industry, most recently for the Allied Technical Centre in Maidenhead, Berkshire. Since joining the team Deb has helped the company complete a successful transition to ISO9001:2015.

It's not just Deb who has joined Octavius Hunt. With her each day comes Louis who provides plenty of 'paws' for thought time and is now an established part of the team. With a face only a mother could love, it's lucky he's so sweet and friendly!



Onwards and upwards for Harvey Environmental

In mid January, Martin Harvey, managing director of Harvey Environmental, welcomed his local Pendle MP, Andrew Stephenson, to the official ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of his new offices at Lomeshaye Bridge Mill in Nelson, Lancashire.

This move is just one of a series of activities being undertaken by Harvey Environmental to do things even bigger and better. The move to a bigger, open plan office space was one of the first changes to take place, facilitating better communication across the team, enabling Harvey to bring clients to its premises and to house the company's growing fleet of vehicles and equipment. The company is also recruiting a sales director and introducing a fully automated paperless office system.

Martin Harvey, founder and managing director, as well as the immediate past president of the British Pest Control Association, said: "2018 was quite a year; we celebrated reaching a milestone

£1m turnover and gained a wealth of new, big brand clients.

"Not bad for a company which started as a one-man band in 2001 with not a single customer to its name!"



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From bugs to bikes

The tales of what **Pest** readers get up to in their out of work time never ceases to amaze us in the **Pest** office.

Take 14-year old Harry Leigh from Hathern in Leicestershire. He's the son of Jay Leigh owner of Pest-Away, the successful pest control business covering the East Midlands and based in Loughborough.

Harry is a motorbike sensation. He was very recently presented with the Thundersports GP3 Superteens championship trophy having had 17 wins and five second places along with setting numerous track records and taking several pole positions during the 2018 season.

For the petrolheads amongst us, last year he rode a Ninja 300 at speeds of up to 120mph. This year he'll be topping 150mph riding a Ktm GP Moto 3, as he starts his first British Superbikes season in the Moto 3 Motostar Championship.

Jay obviously is as proud as punch of his son's achievements. Ask him where this talent came from and he admits that in his own youth he did a bit of motor-cross bike riding, so let Harry have a go too. Jay says: "He just took to it as if he'd ridden all his life. Within a couple of rides he was talent spotted and, aged only 11, he was race riding. This year he was asked to join the British Talent cup.

Harry is super self motivated and has to be amazingly fit. He trains five times a week, two sessions in the gym with a personal trainer, plus loads of skipping and riding around 300 miles a week on a bicycle – that's a pedal bike, no motor involved!

The only problem with all this is the expense. If any reader would like to get involved with sponsorship, or knows of anyone who could help, Jay would be delighted to hear from you. Email him at jay@pest-away.co.uk



Three generations of the Leigh family: Super star, Harry with dad, Jay and grandad Leigh



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Ficam D re-approved but...



In early January Bayer announced that Ficam D (1.25% bendiocarb), the mainstay of wasps' nest treatments, could only be used indoors. Product with the old label is no longer available to purchase and any stocks held must be used up by 25 July 2019.

So, what to use instead? **Pest** Technical Advisory Board member, Richard Strand, examines the implications and alternatives.

As the wasps' nest season hoves into view pest professionals, for the first time in years, will need to review their control methods and procedures. Ask any pest controller how to deal with a wasps' nest and the magic words are likely to be: 'Ficam D'. For some four decades it has been the product of choice for wasps' nests in most situations.

Good news and the not so good news

The good news is that the product has recently been re-approved – this really is good news. Keeping Ficam D on the UK market for use by professional pest control technicians is a major success for the Bayer regulatory teams in the UK and Europe.

The not so good news is that a wide range of insects that fell within the definition of 'crawling insects' (with the exception of ants) has now gone from the label and, when used against wasps' nests, there are several tricky restrictions limiting how the product can now be used.

Let's look at some of these new label instructions and how they should be/may be interpreted.

The headline change is that the product will be restricted to 'indoor use only'. It is, according to the label: 'For control of wasps and hornets (nests), including Asian hornets' nests, as an indoor treatment'.

The first element of 'label interpretation'

Bayer emphasises that the 'indoor' definition does include nests inside the eaves of houses, even when the product is applied from outside.

But what about outdoor 'four-sided' structures? If the structure has four walls, a ceiling and a door – such as a garage or a shed – that would be OK. A greenhouse which is a more temporary structure – probably not. These, along with open-fronted structures, such as Dutch barns, another favourite spot for nesting wasps, are not thought to be sufficiently secure to meet the Health & Safety Executive's (HSE) expectation of 'indoors'.

It is also worth noting that although Asian hornets are covered by



the new approval, the nests of these insects are usually outside. Fortunately, at present, Asian hornet nests remain the responsibility of the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Bayer, along with the other manufacturers, is working with DEFRA to develop effective ways of controlling Asian hornets. We await guidance on that particular use.

Nests removed after treatment

Wasps' nest control is one of the few areas of pest control where, assuming good access, the technician can leave the site sure that the problem has been resolved.

Follow up treatments are not always factored into quotes for wasp nest treatments. Aspects of the new label suggest that this may have to change.

The new label states: 'After treatment the nests should be removed, if possible, and disposed of in a controlled manner...'

Further, the label requires that the technician applies 'an impervious surface covering' to surfaces that could be contaminated during the treatment. To remove that covering immediately after treatment would seem to heighten the risk to the technician of attack by wasps. In any event, it may take some time for any dust that did not penetrate the nest to settle and for the sheeting to offer the protection intended.

Follow up visits?

Taking these two label requirements together suggests that a follow up visit for wasp treatments may become necessary in some situations, the purpose of that second visit being to remove both the nest and the protective sheeting. All of that said, there are plenty of situations where the nests are in cavities, or are not accessible and,

so, nest removal will not be possible and sheeting cannot be applied.

The objective of applying impervious covering to the treatment area is to prevent contamination beyond the nest. How far this needs to extend is open to the judgement of the technician, in the situation that prevails.

But how should this covering be dealt with after use? If contaminated sheeting is carried out of the loft hatch and through someone's home, it may shed dust along the way, spreading contamination. The contaminated sheet would, therefore, need to be stowed in a protective bag on being lifted and removed from site.

What then? Should the sheet be disposed of after each use? – we are in an age where the single use of plastics is frowned upon – if not, how will this sheeting and the bag it is carried in, be cleaned for reuse?

The regulatory authorities, as may be expected, show a general concern about excessive accumulation of biocides in the environment where they may impact on a wide range of non-target species. One way of addressing this is to limit the number of re-treatments that may be applied to a site. This principle can be found on a number of recent biocide labels and it is present on the new Ficam D label. The number of treatments that can be carried out with the product, per annum is limited to 11.

This should not present undue problems. I hope that none of us need that many goes at destroying a wasps' nest!

However, does the 'application site' mean the individual wasps' nest, or the roof space in which the nest is situated. There may be more than one and these may come to light only after the treatment? Here, thankfully, the answer is thought to be that the 'application site' is the location and not the individual nest.

So what about treatment outdoors?

So how are pest controllers going to deal with nests that are not 'indoors'? This is likely to be a question that they will be confronted with sooner rather than later, as those in sheds, rockeries, and bushes are the very nests that tend to be noticed first.

Coupled with the fact that the Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*) tend to build their nests in hedges where they are quickly noticed. This species' life cycle also runs several weeks in advance of the common and German wasp.

We have come to accept the 'Hierarchy of Control' for rodent management. Perhaps we should apply those principles to wasps' nest control. Is a treatment always necessary? Where the wasps pose no risk, do their nests need to be destroyed in the first place? If they do, are there options other than the use of insecticide?

Some years ago I wrote an article on biocide-free pest control and used an incident with a wasps' nest as an example. A householder complained of a wasps' nest in a greenhouse and was adamant that no insecticide was to be used. The job was refused by a long list of pest controllers whose default treatment was the application of insecticide dust, until one agreed to look at the job.

The nest was destroyed and removed. The pest controller concerned later observed that, on reflection, several other possible non-chemical solutions came to mind involving water, heat treatment and mechanical removal of the nest.

The above case, also illustrates an aspect of human behaviour – if you have a universal solution to a problem, why look elsewhere? Unless we are forced to, we don't think beyond the easy option!



Non-biocidal products

There are non-biocidal products available.

Diatomaceous earth based products are a possibility. If used, they will be much slower acting than Ficam D and it is unclear whether the dust will be so readily distributed around the nest as other powders. Provided the weather remains dry and the risk to people is low, this option may be feasible.

Another non-biocidal option is the use of aerosols designed to freeze the nest. 'Frost sprays' are currently being trialled. These come into their own when confronted with small exposed nests – just the type that are likely to be found outside.

Other insecticide dusts and aerosols

Having discounted either no treatment or a biocide-free solution, there are other insecticides that can be considered.

Bendiocarb is not the only insecticide that will kill wasps! And, in any case, Ficam W spray can still be used outdoors. There are also others to choose from.

There are dust products based on permethrin and deltamethrin that will certainly work if applied correctly. The synthetic pyrethroids are thought to agitate the nest more than do carbamates. The technician will have to give greater consideration to his/her own safety, as well as that of the customer, and may need to think in terms of deploying a wider exclusion zone during and following treatment.

There is also at least one organophosphate (OP) product, namely Quartz, containing the active azamethiphos. This has an approval

for both indoor and outdoor use and may offer an alternative that, like the carbamates, does not aggravate the nest. It also seems to have overcome the past problem with OPs, as Quartz is described as odourless.

What about dust application equipment?

If technicians are now to be choosing between a range of dust products, are there implications for the application equipment manufacturers?

Tony Gardener of GPS, the manufacturer of the PA2 professional powder dust applicator says: "It's business as usual!"

The carrier for most of the dusts is of much the same consistency and, certainly for the PA2, Tony is content that other insecticidal dusts will be delivered equally effectively as Ficam D. Care will need to be taken to clean out the applicator when switching products, however.

Sprays and aerosols

As long as the label permits it – and watch for changes as these products go through approval review – a number of water-based sprays may be effective, such as Ficam W.

These might work well for small nests inside insecure structures such as sheds and greenhouses. Used in underground nests, a large amount of the spray will just seep into the soil, causing contamination.

Also available are a number of aerosol wasp destroyers, some of which are foam sprays. These jet the insecticide at, or into, the nest, sometimes from a considerable distance.

Practical viewpoint

Chris Hannath, biologist for Universal Pest Control in Nottingham, notes that Ficam D has been a solution for wasps' nests in almost all circumstances.

His view is that there will be no single replacement for the product in situations where it can no longer be used. Rather he sees that pest professionals will have to select the most appropriate from a range of approaches to fit the circumstances. In his opinion this has to be good news empowering professional pest controllers.

Grahame Turner, technical & training manager at Mitie, is concerned about safety and the risk of getting stung: "Ficam D has been an excellent standard product for all wasp nest control, with low risk of stings.

We are now likely to need to stock and use a variety of products and application techniques for different



Some, but not necessarily all, of the alternative products available

situations, balancing safety, treatment efficiency and legal compliance. Of paramount concern is the risk to both technicians and customers of an allergic reaction to stings and anaphylactic shock."

John Hope, technical manager for the National Pest Technicians Association, expressed concern about some aspects of practicality of the new label instructions.

When it comes to personal protective equipment, for example, the label instructions focus entirely on protecting the user from exposure to the chemical. This is, perhaps, not surprising, but the instructions appear to ignore the threat from the wasps themselves and raise some contradictions.

The label calls for type 4 protective coverall to EN14605. How is this to be worn with a bee suit? Bearing in mind that the technician will be required to wear a particle filter mask under his/her bee veil, how practical will this level of PPE be in a roof space on a hot day in July? The label specifies nitrile gloves. If these are to protect against stings as well, thick (0.38mm or greater), gauntlets will be necessary!

John points out: "The new labelling potentially leads to closer exposure to wasps when installing impermeable membranes to limit dust exposure. This may involve getting 'up close and personal' to a treated nest, usually in the height of summer. Does this take into account the wider health and safety picture, i.e. heat exposure etc in already hot loft spaces?"

For the future

In summary, the pest control industry still has its product of choice and it can still be used in the majority of the places that it traditionally has been used. In most cases, but not all, where it can't be used, alternative solutions exist and are practical.

Use of Ficam D from this summer onwards may require more diligence – but then we should be diligent with all biocides.

Technicians would be advised to carry with them a few alternatives when setting out on a wasp job. Over the years pest professionals have been challenged time and time again, to rethink how to resolve pest problems when restrictions are placed on old favourites.

'Professionalism' has, in the long run, benefitted pest controllers not hindered us. As John Hope says: "Anything that makes people think before using a chemical is good, after all that is what COSHH has been dictating for years."



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Bábolna Bio

BPCA's Ian Andrew lifts the lid on BPCA Registered



BPCA CEO, Ian Andrew

Described by the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) as its latest member benefit **Pest** asked BPCA chief executive, Ian Andrew, to explain what BPCA Registered is all about. As regular readers will know your **Pest** editors have been sceptical about the need for an alternative Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme (see **Pest 58**: August & September 2018). But, at the end of the day, it's not what we think that matters. It's pest professionals working at the sharp end who have the final say.

Last summer, we announced members will get access to a new member benefit for 2019 – BPCA Registered. Now set up, our members are receiving their ID cards and are able to start building up their CPD records.

BPCA Registered was launched as an individual recognition scheme (including CPD), giving employees of member organisations the ability to demonstrate their credentials to customers independently. After all, if you've worked your socks off to get a qualification why shouldn't you flaunt it to your clients?

The scheme is a benefit for full members only and it's £25 per head. As with every member benefit, the decision to use it is entirely optional.

Phil Halpin, BPCA President said: "Just like completing your Find A Pest Controller profile, using BusinessShield or displaying the BPCA logo on your van, BPCA Registered is a benefit of being a BPCA member. It's a business decision.

"Personally, I'm excited by BPCA Registered. Our on the ground team are the face of the company. They're the difference between an issue being resolved or not.

"Many pest management professionals are qualified well above the minimum membership criteria. BPCA Registered enables authoritative proof of that. To be

able to assure customers with your professional credentials and talk about how your employer approaches and engages with CPD is extremely powerful."

Why not PROMPT?

When it comes down to it - as with every decision taken by a membership organisation – we're offering BPCA Registered to protect BPCA member interests. PROMPT doesn't go far enough for many of our members.

When talking about launching the scheme, there was a lot of discomfort around individuals being able to obtain a PROMPT 'professional' card, whose employer did not belong to any trade association or another association with lower membership criteria.

It is commonplace for associations themselves to handle CPD because they're the leading body in their sector. Associations are made up of members passionate about their trade. We are the pest management association, with over 500 pest management companies in membership and growing by the month.

BPCA Registered is absolutely about members being able to demonstrate the difference to customers between a BPCA member employee and not one.

More than this - members can control the scheme itself through the committee structure, making sure it's fit for purpose year-on-year.

"Pest management association in charge of members pest management CPD scheme" wouldn't make headlines in any other trade. I can't think of anybody more qualified to create, maintain and improve a CPD scheme for the pest management sector than the pest management sector!

Flaunt it

BPCA Registered is independent proof for companies and employees to demonstrate their credentials. If a company passes the stringent BPCA membership criteria, they deserve to display their membership certificate with pride. If an individual works hard to put themselves through an exam, they should be able to display that on their ID card with pride.

Why let your qualifications hideaway in the office or a drawer at home, when you can carry them with you always?

BPCA REGISTERED AFFILIATE
Associated with pest management but doesn't manage public health pests themselves.

BPCA REGISTERED TRAINEE
Hasn't passed their Level 2 Award in Pest Management but is working towards it.

BPCA REGISTERED TECHNICIAN
A technical member of staff who has passed their Level 2 Award in Pest Management.

full criteria at bpc.org.uk/registered

BPCA REGISTERED TECHNICIAN
This card certifies that **Natalie Bungay** is a British Pest Control Association Registered TECHNICIAN
No: 42123456
Exp: 31/12/2020

BPCA REGISTERED AFFILIATE
This card certifies that **Robinson** is a British Pest Control Association Registered AFFILIATE
No: 42123456
Exp: 31/12/2020

BPCA REGISTERED TRAINEE
This card certifies that **her Potter** is a British Pest Control Association Registered TRAINEE
No: 42123456
Exp: 31/12/2020

If you've got it, flaunt it!

We're initially launching with three categories (Affiliate, Trainee and Technician) but before long there'll be more on the table.

If you've got higher qualifications already, you're likely to be able to move into these higher categories when they launch. Any **Pest** readers who would like to feedback on what these categories might be can drop me a line. My email is at the end of the article.

Unstructured CPD

When we started out researching CPD and pest management we kept hearing that current schemes weren't reflecting how people actually kept up with their knowledge.

A focus for the Association in developing BPCA Registered, was the ability for professionals to record practical, informal on the job training, mentoring or technical advice and receive points for this.

The reality is most of the good guys out there are already doing the 20 points worth of CPD in some format – we just needed to build a system which suitably records it.

My colleague Karen Dawes, training manager has been a key driver in how this works. She said: "The feedback we received from the membership and the scheme's professional panel challenged us to explore alternative means of accounting for CPD. Recognising attendance at events, meetings and training courses isn't enough.

"Unstructured CPD is recording your individual learning and then reflecting on how you intend to apply what you've learned to your trade.

"The reflection demonstrates the importance of CPD to end users and checks that CPD isn't just a box-ticking exercise.

"This style of CPD could be watching a documentary, visiting another member to observe how they deliver a cockroach treatment, or even speaking at a relevant conference or event.

"In fact, the range of activities for unstructured CPD is arguably infinite. All you need to do is justify the learning."

BPCA Registered launches with the option to record both Unstructured and Structured CPD. Structured CPD activities are formal activities such as training courses



Karen Dawes

or seminar attendance, or completion of online CPD quizzes. All BPCA Registered professionals on the scheme are required to complete 20 points by the 31 December.

Not without its challenges

I'll be the first to admit that developing the scheme in such a short period of time has not been without its challenges. The staff team have been working hard to make sure everything is fit for purpose.

We've really dug our heels in for this scheme to work just how we need it, and for that, it's been difficult at times.

However, all things considered, to be here heading into PestEx with over 1500 BPCA Registered professionals onto the scheme, I'm delighted. We've surpassed initial forecasts and I'm sure it will grow further. BPCA Registered is a long-term investment that will grow and adapt, year-on-year. It's not just something to get us through this strategy.

I know getting systems to talk to one another will always be a challenge, but thankfully we have a strong relationship with our suppliers who have moved quickly to meet our needs. They'll continue to work with us as the scheme evolves.

As expected, we're still working through a few bugs in the system. We're aware of them and people are working on the system every week to make sure it's exactly what you need from the scheme.

Culturally it's a change to processes too, both within the BPCA team and in member companies. I can say that membership renewals have been particularly interesting this year, especially because we're trying to onboard so many people in such a short period of time.

I am excited to start seeing the BPCA Registered cards at events, and especially

PestEx so my message to those who have them is to flaunt them! Now the initial launch is out of the way, we've got a company leaderboard being built, where main contacts can log in and view their employees CPD activity.

We're also extending the resources available to undertake CPD, both digitally and practically nationwide, so look out for the new micro online learning courses and the calendar of practical CPD opportunities published soon.

Where we're at

We started to onboard member employees from the end of December, which included logging on to confirm qualifications, upload a photograph and agree to a Code of Conduct. Straightaway BPCA Registered professionals were able to start recording and reflecting activities in their CPD zone.

Now, as payments come in for membership subscriptions, those who have successfully onboarded have started to receive their ID cards and fobs.

Ian Andrew, BPCA CEO
ian@bpca.org.uk

Examples of acceptable CPD

Structured CPD	Unstructured CPD
Formal on-the-job training	Informal on-the-job training
Accredited training	Informal mentoring
Non-accredited training	Technical advice
Online CPD quizzes	
Event seminars	

CPD SHOULD BE REAL AND RELEVANT TO YOUR ROLE

The BPCA Registered website allows you (or your employer) to record unstructured CPD points...

- 1 Log in
- 2 Tell us what you've learned
- 3 Reflect on what you've learned
- 4 Tell us how long it took
- 5 The points are added

more about unstructured CPD at bpca.org.uk/registered



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Don't be afraid to lift the cover

Drains may not be the most glamorous bit of pest management but pest professionals ignore them at their peril. Associate editor Helen Riby reports.



Are rat infestations in domestic properties on the rise? One reader, David Parnell from D Parnell Pest Control Services is convinced they are because he's rushed of his feet dealing with the problem. David, whose business covers the North London, Hertfordshire and Essex areas, told us that not that long ago he was dealing with one or two cases of rats in people's homes a month, but now it's more like seven or eight a week.

What's more, 98% of them are related to drain defects. So, if like David your goal as a pest professional is to solve your customer's problem, rather than simply treat the symptoms, checking the drains should be pretty much at the top of your list when you arrive at an indoor rat job.

According to David there are still plenty of so-called professional pest controllers who are content to put out bait stations and simply return every now and then to top them up. If the rats are gaining access to a property via defective drains this might be a lucrative long-term contract but it's not a permanent solution. Repairing the damage, or fitting a rat blocker, to prevent the rats gaining access to the property is the best way forward and requires little or no rodenticide.

Minimising the amount of rodenticide used, particularly outdoors, is a key element in rodenticide stewardship. Of course, when it comes using rodenticides in drains and sewers the bait is generally not going to be accessible to non-target species, so you might say, what's the problem?

But don't be lulled into a false sense of security. As the latest UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime annual report points out, questions are already being asked about the level of rodenticide found in the aquatic environment. Whilst there is no indication that the very low levels detected are problematic, ▶▶▶

The role of cameras in drain inspection

"In the hands of an experienced pest professional a drain camera can be used to spot the tell tale signs of rodent activity to help work out how rodents are gaining access to a property," says Paul Butler from Camarthanshire-based Inspector Pipes.

The alternative of calling in drainage contractors can often mean those tell tale signs are missed because drainage contractors are principally looking for interruptions in the flow of waste water from a property. Cameras used by drainage contractors need to produce reports to satisfy water companies, council departments, insurance companies and the like but such sophisticated systems are not required for pest management applications.

Paul continues: "That's why our cameras are generally less expensive. They are intended for exploratory work. Video recording is included as standard and, on most models, there's the ability to 'grab' Jpeg images. 'On screen' text writing is also standard on our larger cameras and can be fitted as an option to the smaller camera systems."

Inspector Pipes supply two push rod systems. The smaller IPL 20 starts with a 20 metre push rod and is a neat portable kit best suited for smaller pipes diameters up to 100mm. It's very agile and can with some ingenuity be negotiated into the most awkward of places and produce

high quality images. Price: from £995. The 60 metre system IPL61 is the full monty and can be used in pipes up to and including 225mm. Price: £2,495.

There is also a low cost pole camera which can be used to look into difficult to reach areas, not just drains.



The portable IPL 20 produces high quality images and carries ample lighting to illuminate larger pipes but the small diameter rod is more at home in smaller pipes

sewer and drain baiting practices may well come under closer scrutiny in the not too distant future.

Germany ahead of the game

Indeed, in Germany, drain and sewer baiting is already under the regulatory microscope. At the German event, PestProtect in January 2018, a major regulatory change was expected – from March 2020 rodenticides would only be allowed if the pest manager could ensure the bait did not come into contact with water.

In October the authorities relaxed their thinking suggesting that rodenticides could be used as before, but only if the pest manager ensured that such baits were removed 'immediately' after heavy rain; a virtual impossibility so, effectively, from 2020 baits will still only be allowed in sewers if they are protected from coming into contact with water.

Pia-Kim Schaper, the editor of *DPS*, the German equivalent of *Pest*, tells us that many forward thinking pest servicing businesses are already making plans, but that many city municipalities have not yet woken up to the issue.

Survey shows drains a target for growth

In the 2018 National UK Pest Management survey pest professionals were asked if there were any new areas/aspects of pest control they were thinking of taking on. Defective drains, sewers, drain surveys, rodent proofing of drains and the like were one of the most common activities mentioned. At PPC Live and PestTech last year there was plenty of interest being shown in drain

cameras and rat blockers. Sorting out drains then does seem to be an area pest professionals are targeting for growth.

Common problems

Dave Oldbury knows a thing or two about sewers and drains. Up until his retirement he was group manager and principal environmental health officer for Manchester City Council. He's an active member of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health National Pest Advisory Panel (NPAP) and has authored a number of NPAP's best practice guidance documents, including the one on sewers. He also sits on the *Pest* Technical Advisory Board.

He says that one of the most common problems is the failure to replace the stopper in the rodding eye after a blockage has been dealt with. Damaged fresh air inlets to inspection chambers are another frequent problem, allowing rats to escape from the drainage chamber. Internally, defective soil vent pipes/drain connectors will allow rats to get out of the drains into the property.

He also pointed out that rats have no difficulty chewing through plastic drain pipes! Dave runs training sessions on sewers and drains for Killgerm so if you're new to this area, get yourself on a course.

Training dates

Killgerm has two *Controlling Pests in Drainage Systems* courses planned for 2019 on 17 April and 3 October. Contact Killgerm for details email: training@killgerm.com

Rat blockers to the rescue

Like David Parnell, Paul Tittensor of ARREST APest based near Stoke-on-Trent believes that many pest professionals forget to lift the manhole cover. Drains are effectively a hidden highway for rats, one which conveniently leads to warm homes and buildings. They are able to move through pipes with ease, seeking food and nesting sites. Defects in a drain, can allow rats access to a building's cavity walls and roof space.

Paul regularly finds evidence of rats digging their way out of manholes and entering property. He has found that access through the drains all too often leads to property damage, chewed cables and ultimately panicked clients. Rat jobs now account for over 60% of his company's work. Their use of Ratwall rat blockers has increased dramatically over the last few years, both in domestic and commercial sectors.

He explains: "As rat entry is often via the drains we fit rat blockers within an external manhole, which allows the rats to travel away from the property, but not to return. They are easy to fit, look the part and are highly effective. Of all the ones that we have fitted we have never had a call back and it has always sorted the rat problem,

leaving customers highly satisfied," explains Paul, "With installation poles available we can even keep our hands clean, at times, which is a bonus!" he adds.

The added benefit to his business has been achieving 'add on sales' of rat blockers.

High quality rat blockers are a convenient and effective measure and being made from stainless steel are gnaw proof. They are also non-toxic and therefore there's no chance of secondary poisoning.

In fact, rat blockers are so effective that they are required by legislation in Denmark and are fitted to all new buildings as a matter of course.

"Lifting manholes is absolutely essential as without considering the drains a property cannot be fully rat proofed," maintains Paul.



Fitted rat blocker



Paul Tittensor fits a Ratwall rat blocker

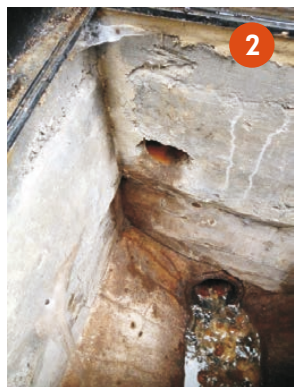
What to look out for

David Parnell has a huge library of pictures showing the drain defects he's come across. He shares some with us here.

1. Missing rodding eye caps on older drainage systems like this one are the most common way rats find their way under buildings. If there are defects further upstream in the drainage line, they will quickly gain entry into the property. Clearing interceptors (and the chamber for that matter) and installing replacement caps is a quick and relatively cheap way of solving the immediate problem. Always tether replacement caps so they can be removed easily should a blockage occur and consider a CCTV drainage survey to help highlight internal defects.



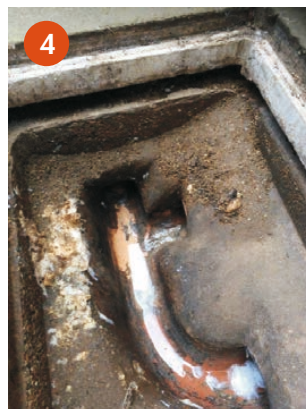
2. Here is another common way rats breach the foul drainage system. This drain has a blocked interceptor under the accumulation of waste. The rodding eye cap has been removed to allow the waste to flow away but this has opened the front door allowing rats from the sewer to enter the chamber. The pipe halfway up the wall is a vent which you can clearly see rats have been using to escape to the surface.



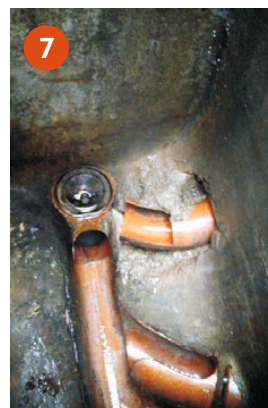
3. This one was a little more unusual. Someone had cemented down a cast aluminium rodding eye cover underneath the bar of a night club close to central London. But it was slightly skew-whiff allowing rats to get a purchase on the edge and literally gnaw their way through. Rats running amok in the club in the small hours was not quite the entertainment guests had expected!



4. This is what happens when a drain is built over using inappropriate substrate. These rats had literally burrowed from the chamber under the paving slabs and straight into the footings of the house!



6. & 7. When investigating a rat problem inside a property it pays to be able to interpret the evidence correctly. This rat hole was under some decking but right up against the side of the building. The lack of surface spoils immediately suggests it's originated from underground. A nearby drain was found to be the culprit!



David Parnell

5. Rat burrows in close proximity to a manhole cover is a sure sign something is wrong. Inside the inspection chamber you can see how rats had burrowed out of a disused vent, filling the drain with mud in the process.



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Testing protocol requires a testing panel comprised of a minimum of 50 children aged 42 to 51 months being unable to gain access to any station.

What are the tamper-resistance requirements for dogs?

A minimum of 12, young and healthy dogs weighing at least 20kg, are provided unrestricted access to a bait station for at least 2 hours. A station will only pass if all 12 dogs are successfully kept from accessing the bait.

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Making connections at PestEx 2019

The theme for PestEx 2019 is making connections. And, with 99 exhibitors listed, there will definitely be plenty of opportunity to renew and extend your contacts. In our five-page preview we have the latest exhibition plan, a full listing of the organisations exhibiting and the detailed seminar timetable. There's also a summary of practical details covering where, when and how to get there.

PestEx is the British Pest Control Association's (BPCA) flagship event. It takes place on 20-21 March at ExCeL London, situated at the Royal Victoria Dock in the East End of the City. For the first time in a number of years the 2019 event has been organised entirely in-house and, so far, all the signs are that everything has gone pretty smoothly.

Ian Andrew, BPCA chief executive will be taking part in his first PestEx. He commented: "Shows like PestEx are great for business. I'm looking forward to having the industry under one roof so I can connect and catch up with existing contacts, as well as make a few new ones."

With registrations currently ahead of the 2017 event, BPCA is forecasting growth in attendance, perhaps as many as 2,500. So there seems little doubt that PestEx 2019 will live up to its reputation as the most

international professional pest management trade show in Europe.

Exhibitors down slightly

If you measure size by the number of exhibitors PestEx is actually not quite as big as two years ago. The total exhibitor list for 2019 is 99; two years ago it was 102. Counting the number of exhibitors though is more an art than a science. Seriously, it's not just arithmetic. Most space is sold at commercial rates but some displays come heavily discounted, or even free. For



example, neither the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU), nor the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group will have paid for their stands.

Exhibition space was reportedly sold out in November last year so, we suspect, that the number of commercial exhibitors, i.e. those who actually pay, is very likely the biggest ever. Space is clearly at a premium as rival trade association, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) is sharing what must be a free space with the Pest Management Alliance (PMA) – as a member of PMA, BPCA is hardly going to charge itself to attend its own event.

As ever there has been a turnover of companies exhibiting. Some come one year, never to be seen again, but they are replaced by a selection of new 'first-timers' dipping their toe in the UK, or maybe European, waters.

A notable absence this year is Curtis Gilmour. Following its merger with Pelsis no doubt the Agrisense, ▶▶▶



PestEx 2019: Where, when and how?

Where?	When?	How?
The prestigious ExCeL exhibition centre, Royal Victoria Dock, London E16 1XL Entrance is free.	The event takes place over two days 20 and 21 March 2019. Opening times are: 09.00 – 17.00* on Wednesday 20 March 09.00 – 16.00 on Thursday 21 March * Exhibition closes at 16.00 with British Pest Management Awards presented at 16.15 in the technical theatre.	By car there's plenty of parking, although it's not cheap. For SatNav use E16 1XL Using London underground and the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) alight at the Custom House station, although be aware that due to ongoing improvement works there is currently no step-free access to ExCeL. By air, London City airport is a short taxi ride away.



British Pest Management Awards judges at work. From left Kevin Higgins from BPCA, Steve Hallam from NPTA, **Pest** editor, Frances McKim, from CIEH, Anne Godfrey and Henry Mott representing CEPA

Curtis Dyna-Fog, Silvanderrsen and B&G Equipment brands will all feature on the large Pelsis stand.

Seminars galore

As in previous years, the seminar programme has concurrent sessions in the technical and the business theatres. Cockroaches, bed bugs, rodents and invasive species all feature in the technical theatre so something for everyone. Two sessions particularly caught our eye. On Thursday afternoon, PelGar's Alex Wade is looking ahead to a world without pesticides and at 13.15 on Wednesday there's an intriguing session entitled 'How to hack smart homes and business;' now that's got to be worth 45 minutes of anyone's time!

Once again, delegates will be issued with headphones to listen to the presentations – meaning they can hear what is being said without deafening those on the surrounding stands. Places are on a first-come-first-served basis, so be there in good time for the popular sessions.

British Pest Management Awards ceremony

At 16.15 on Day 1, after the exhibition has closed, the British Pest Management Awards (BPMA) will take centre stage. There will be a drinks reception at which the 2019 winners will be revealed and presentations made. This will take place in the large technical theatre. This is the second time BPMA's have been made. The thinking behind them is to showcase excellence within the pest management sector. It's an opportunity to reward the people that are making the extra effort for the industry and for their organisations, which in turn benefits everybody in the sector.

Something that's new for 2019 is the Afterparty. At the end of day one, exhibitors and visitors will be able to head to the Giant Robot in Canary Wharf (five stops on the DLR) to grab a drink and some food and to continue making connections into the evening. Tickets cost £79 for members and £99 for non-members, so it's not a cheap night out, but then London's not a cheap city.

Register and win

All registered visitors will be entered into a prize draw to win a Sage Barista coffee machine from John Lewis and they will be able to collect a free limited edition PestEx travel mug from the BPCA stand (while stocks last).

To register go to www.pestex.org/register

Exhibitors and their stand numbers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5 Ienv Solutions | 71 IPestOnTrol |
| 81 A & M Hawk | 66 Irto Trio |
| 7b Abate Pest Franchise | 96 Kaeltia Compliance Services |
| 106 Adkalis | 24 Killgerm Chemicals |
| 82 Airofog | 76 Kness Pest Defense |
| 101 Alcochem | 82a Lance Lab |
| 78 Alerthouse | 16 Lantra |
| 88 AP&G Catchmaster | 91 Lodi UK |
| 72c ATEO | 110 Longray |
| 65 Bábolna Bio | 69 Merlin Environmental Solutions |
| 87 Barretine Environmental Health | 89 Mesto Spritzenfabrik |
| 52 BASF | 94 Metex |
| 8 BASIS PROMPT | 6 MOS Fogger (JY Industry Supplies) |
| 36 Bayer Environmental Science | 70 MouseStop |
| 10 Beegone | 74 Mylva |
| 43 Bell Laboratories | 102 NPTA |
| 19 Berson | 54 Octavius Hunt |
| 29 BioGenius | 3 Orkin |
| 95 Biopreparaty | 68 ORMA |
| 99 BioSix | 109 OSD Group |
| 114a Birchmeier | 15b Panko Monitoring Traps |
| 53 Bleu Line - B. L. Group & Spray Team | 41 PelGar International |
| 86 Bower Products | 44 Pelsis |
| 42 Bradshaw Bennett | 12 Pest Go |
| 114 Brandenburg | 102 Pest Management Alliance |
| 0 BPCA | 1 Pest Trader |
| 13 Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) | 92 PestFix |
| 17 Canine Assisted Pest Eradication | 22 PestScan |
| 18 Chabanne | 26 PestWest |
| 115 Cliverton Insurance | 83 Plastdiversity |
| 9 Confederation of European Pest Control Associations (CEPA) | 72b Procatch |
| 14 Deadline Products | 48 Purean Solutions & Technology |
| 51 Deeval International | 45 Quimunsu |
| 67 Defender Bird Spikes (Jones & Son) | 34 Rat Pak Pest Control Products |
| 46 Detia Degesch | 13b Rodenticide Resistance Action Group (RRAG) |
| 28 Earth Care Products | 93 Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) |
| 79 Eitan Amichai Pest Management | 114 Russell IPM |
| 108 EuroTrap | 105 Sami Tech |
| 15a Gloria House and Garden | 31 ServicePro |
| 37 GreenTrapOnline | 90 ServiceTracker |
| 73 GSG Urbanguard | 84 Sitno |
| 72a HeatWork | 11 SM BURE |
| 40 Hockley International | 71a SPM Global |
| 113 Huck Nets (UK) | 98 Sumitomo Chemical |
| 38 i2L Research | 23 Syngenta |
| 55 IGEBA | 39 Telex (Hong Kong) Industry |
| 103 Inter-China | 72d Thermokil |
| 7b International Pest Control | 107 Unichem |
| 21 International Pheromone Systems | 56 Vebi Istituo Biochimico |
| 27 InPEST | 80 Vectorfog |
| | 2 Wildlife Control Supplies |
| | 65a Woodstream Europe |
| | 111 Xcluder |
| | 30 Yanco |



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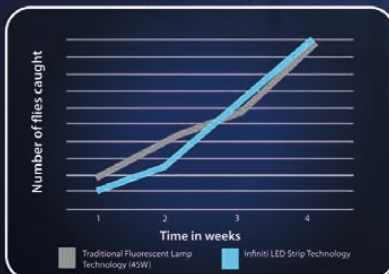
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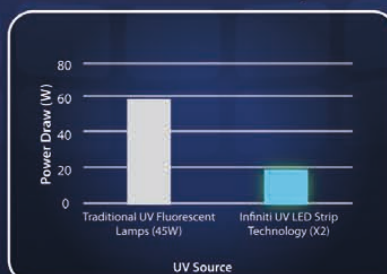
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Fly Catch Analysis



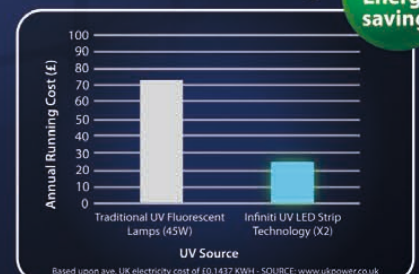
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Wednesday 20 March – Seminar & Technical Programme

Technical theatre

- 10.00** Can we stem the tide? Invasive non-native species
– **Niall Moore, Non-Native Species Secretariat**
- 11.00** Tailoring cockroach foraging behaviour and biology
– **Steve Broadbent, Ensystex**
- 12.00** Rodent control challenges and solutions
– **Sharon Hughes, BASF**
- 13.00** Bed bugs – new findings on how to detect an unwanted sleeping partner
– **Jette Knudsen, Nattaro Labs**
- 14.00** 10 years of rat and mouse control procedures
– **Paul Charlson, National Pest Advisory Panel (NPAP), CIEH**
- 15.00** Building great pest management programmes
– **Richard Moseley, Bayer**

16.15

BRITISH Pest Management AWARDS 2019

Business theatre

- 10.00** Site-specific pest risk assessments
– **John Lloyd, Independent Pest Management & Insect Consultancy**
- 11.15** When it goes wrong
– **Martin Ball, Health and Safety Executive**
- 12.15** Rodent risks: Closure and prosecution stories
– **Dr Belinda Stuart-Moonlight, Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner and expert witness**
- 13.15** How to hack smart homes and business
– **Tony Gee, Pen Test Partners**
- 14.15** Use the law to sell your services
– **Paul Westgate, Westgate Pest Control**
- 15.15** Should I give up, or just keep on chasing payments?
– **Peter Wallwork, The Credit Services Association**



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Thursday 21 March – Seminar & Technical Programme

Technical theatre

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10.00 | Acquisition, incubation & transfer of bacteria by household insects
– Matthew Davies, Killgerm & Federica Boiocchi, Aston University |
| 11.15 | Protecting Jersey from Asian hornets
– Absolute Pest Control & Jersey Beekeepers' Association |
| 12.15 | A world without pesticides
– Alex Wade, PelGar International |
| 13.30 | Winning big: SLAs and tendering
– Kevin Higgins, BPCA & Dee-Ward Thompson, BPCA |
| 14.30 | Expectations from pest monitoring in food manufacturing
– Ferenc Varga, Nestlé |

Business theatre

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 10.15 | Our terms and conditions apply...maybe?
– David Quinton, Which? |
| 11.15 | Don't get caught in the GDPR trap!
– Louise Coldwell, Killgerm |
| 12.15 | Site-specific versus general risk assessments
– Stallard Kane and BPCA BusinessShield |
| 13.15 | Reputation management – preparing for the unexpected
– Jane Shepherd, Shepherd PR |



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Leave, collect or re-use?

What should happen to bait boxes when accounts change hands?

In the last edition of **Pest** magazine (**Pest 60**: December 2018 & January 2019), one of our Technical Advisory Board members, Dave Archer of DKA Pest Control, let-off steam on one of his pet topics – namely companies leaving behind their bait boxes, which may or may not contain bait, at the end of a contract. This topic clearly excited readers....

Yes, the topic of whether to leave or collect rodent bait boxes when a contract changes hands definitely struck a chord. We asked for readers' comments and boy did we get them! The feature was even picked-up by the USA title *Techletter*. It would appear the situation is virtually identical over there too.

Sparing their blushes, here is a selection of comments sent in by readers that sum up the type of points made:

"When I've contacted large companies about removing them from a site, the answer has always been that they are the client's property."

And a more detailed response:

"There is no problem with leaving bait stations with customers, in fact it is often the case that the customer has been charged for the bait stations and therefore owns them. It is also a good practice to leave emptied bait stations *in situ* to avoid neophobia.

The problem is the bait! This should be removed in line with legal requirements.

I wonder if those companies who leave bait behind in contravention to label requirements to remove it at the end of the treatment are members of trade associations who boast that in order to ensure professional pest control, customers should select one of their members?"

And from a very savvy pest controller in the US who read the article in *Techletter*:

"For us it's a waste to leave bait stations behind – we collect and reuse them. We just took over an account where all the boxes

were left – over 60 boxes. We were able to re-use 40 of them. For us we don't mind other companies leaving the equipment – its free and we can use them."

Old rodent baits – don't feed the insect pests!

Insect expert, Dave Pinniger, renowned for his conservation work in historic buildings, also replied.

I was interested to read Dave Archer's feature in **Pest 60**: December 2018 & January 2019. He makes some very serious points about the risks posed by leaving old rodent baits around. Forgotten, or abandoned, rodent baits can also create another unwanted problem by providing food for a range of insect pests.

Infestations of grain weevil, saw-toothed grain beetle, biscuit beetle, spider beetle and various moth species have all been recorded in old loose grain baits. Wax bait blocks can also provide food for *Anthrenus* woolly bear carpet beetle larvae and more recently, vodka beetle (*Attagenus smirnovi*) and Berlin beetle (*Trogoderma angustum*).

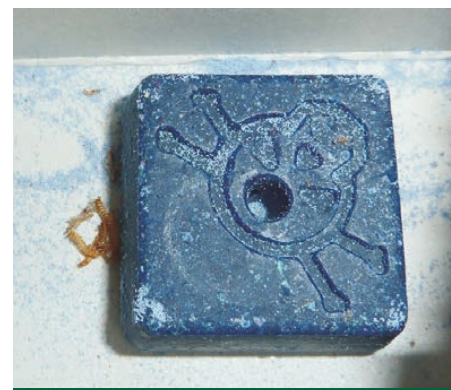
These insects are major pests of textiles and natural history specimens. Many museums and historic houses have pest management programmes in place to prevent pests becoming established in their collections. They do not expect their pest control contractor to add to their problems. For example, forgotten wax block baits infested with vodka beetle larvae were found in a natural history collection store room and this resulted in very bad publicity for the contractor.



Over-labelling other company's bait stations means they can be re-used
N.B. Picture taken before latest labelling requirements were introduced

Some technicians checking bait boxes have not recognised the signs of insect attack on baits. We have frequently found old baits which have been hidden in voids or behind furniture. Additionally, baits may remain in place for years when contractors lose the contract for servicing a building.

More recent gel formulations of baits and wax blocks seem to be less attractive to insects and therefore less prone to attack. Time will tell whether they become more vulnerable as they age.



Attagenus in bait block



Trogoderma infested rodent bait

Dave Archer's response

In reply to reader's comments, Dave Archer writes:

I do understand that many companies leave bait boxes at the end of a treatment or contract, but I cannot condone this for the following reasons:



- Is bait ever removed from the boxes before handover? I am not aware of any cases where it is – toxic bait that in many instances shouldn't even be there, as there had been no recorded signs of recent infestations;
- Are customers ever given keys to the boxes? In all my years I am not aware of any that have. They may well now own them, but to the customer they are now useless. In many cases the locks and keys are unique to the servicing company and as such are difficult for others to access;
- Even if they are given keys, are customers really supposed to access areas of professional only baits to top up with what would normally now be amateur use products? In addition with wet old bait and rodent nesting material often found in these boxes are customers ever informed of the relevant health risks of doing so?
- If keys are not issued (as appears is normally the case), what of the now redundant bait boxes usually made of plastic that cannot be reused? If they had been collected, they could be reused time and again by the servicing company on other jobs. We are increasingly as a society being urged to reuse and recycle. This goes completely against the norm. Take an average of say 5 - 10 rat boxes and 20 or so mouse boxes on a contract – it's a lot of plastic left behind. Often boxes are metal in outdoor situations, but they are still redundant.
- Do companies really want their logos on boxes that they no longer have responsibility for, which are now being used by another contractor over which they have no control?
- If boxes are left on site with company logos, there is the erroneous assumption that they are still maintaining the pest control services on site.

I am not on a witch-hunt against servicing companies or individual contractors here, and no such implication should be inferred. My point is that for all the reasons listed above, it appears to me that this is an area in which we, as a collective industry, are sadly lacking. I am still of the opinion that boxes and bait should be removed from site at the end of a one-off treatment or contract. Surely trade associations are aware of this practice. Could we perhaps now hear their voice and stance on this matter?

Codes of Conduct checked

A look at the Codes of Conduct on the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) website revealed that the closest any come to addressing this issue is the Code of Best Practice for the use of rodenticides, published by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU); otherwise known as the rodenticide stewardship code. This discusses the status of the bait but nothing relating to the bait box. See section 6.11. It states:

'After you have finished the treatment, you must make every effort to ensure all traces of the bait have been removed from the site and disposed of according to the label instructions. You cannot rely on others to carry out these tasks. If you are denied access to properties to do this, it is best practice to record when you attempted to retrieve the bait and to explain to the client, in writing, that the responsibility for disposal has now been transferred to them. You may wish to leave details of the requirements for disposal of the rodenticide(s) that have been used. If a previous practitioner has not removed the bait they laid, you should give them the opportunity to do so. If they do not do this in the time frame specified, they will have no further claim on it, but you will have a duty of care to dispose of this rodenticide safely. Rodenticide that you have retrieved from a treatment you have undertaken may be reused if it is clear that it has not been contaminated or marked by rodents, providing it can be stored in line with the approval conditions of the product.'

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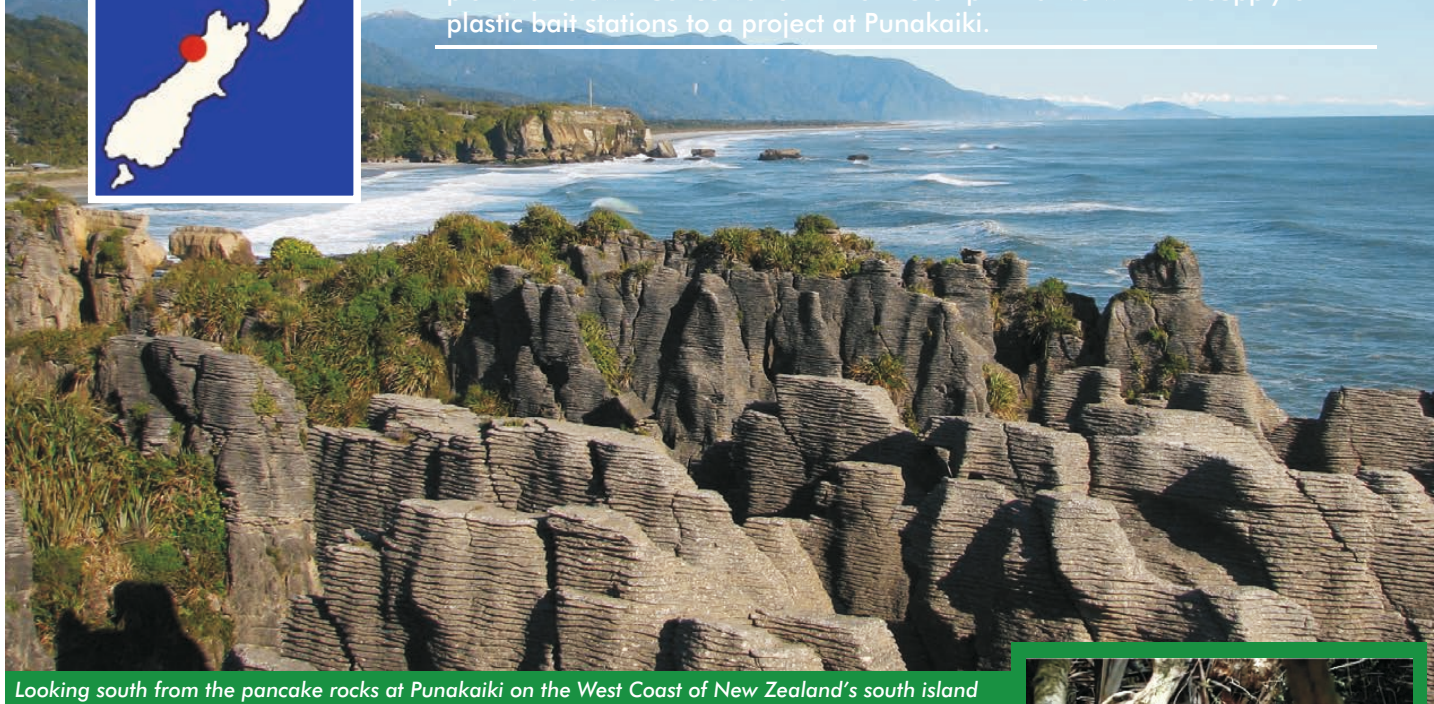
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Smart trapping



In 2016 the Government of New Zealand announced its ambitious plan of Predator Free New Zealand 2050. One such project is Predator Free Punakaiki on New Zealand's south island, sponsored by D2K, Vodafone and the Department of Conservation. PelGar International is supporting the plan via its own Conservation in Partnership initiative with the supply of plastic bait stations to a project at Punakaiki.



Looking south from the pancake rocks at Punakaiki on the West Coast of New Zealand's south island

New Zealand's unique native creatures and plants evolved for millions of years in a world without mammals and, as a result, are extremely vulnerable to introduced predators. It is estimated these predators kill around 25 million native birds every year.

The objective of Predator Free New Zealand 2050 is to achieve a concerted long-term nationwide effort to rid the country of the introduced rats, stoats and possums that have placed the natural heritage in jeopardy. Key to achieving this is for communities and organisations to work together in predator control trapping and monitoring.



One of these conservation projects is taking place on the west coast of the south island of New Zealand, at Punakaiki, known for its Pancake Rocks and Blowholes and as a key breeding location for Westland petrels and great spotted kiwi.

Native bird sanctuary

Predator Free Punakaiki is working with local conservation groups and volunteers to create a native bird sanctuary. This organisation has adopted a novel, high tech approach. Rodent bait stations are baited with non-toxic lure and are fitted with 24/7 remote monitoring using the latest Internet of Things (IoT) network technologies, Narrowband-IoT (NB-IoT) – ideal as this has the ability to deliver long battery life for the remote monitoring and extended land coverage.



Volunteers receive a notification when a trap is activated giving details of the exact location so it can be cleared and reset

Conservation in Partnership

In 2014 Hampshire-based PelGar International established its Conservation in Partnership (CiP) initiative to support local conservation projects by working with local communities and conservation schemes to protect native species from rodent infestation.

In **Pest 55**: February & March 2018 we reported on the company's work

protecting the little dodo on Samoa. Supporting Predator Free Punakaiki was another opportunity for PelGar to demonstrate its conservation credentials.

All the rodent bait stations come from the UK and are supplied free of charge by PelGar under the Conservation in Partnership initiative. Branded with the local PelGar distributor's D2K (Designed to Kill) logo, the Vanguard bait stations, made by Tenv, are used with non toxic lures from the NARA range.

Each trap is fitted with a SIM that connects via Vodafone's IoT network to the MinkPolice smart-phone application.

Volunteers receive a notification when a trap is activated giving details of the exact trap location so it can be cleared and reset and go on to trap more pests, more frequently.

Time savings

As Grant Parrett, of Predator Free Punakaiki explained: "The benefits of this system are fantastic for our volunteers. Rather than having to walk through the area to check traps they can now just target traps known to have been activated. This will speed up the process and help us achieve our goal of a Predator Free Punakaiki and ensure the



Bait boxes sponsored by PelGar containing Gorilla traps and NARA lures

future of our native species."

As Gerwyn Jones, PelGar's Asia Pacific business manager concluded: "This is a great example of a PelGar Conservation in Partnership (CiP) project. Our involvement is supplying the plastic bait boxes but the collaboration with Vodafone New Zealand and MinkPolice is a great innovation which

has the potential for application in a wide range of pest control situations."



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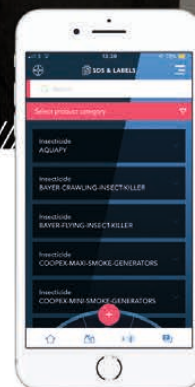


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Taking the industry's temperature

Market research specialists on board for 2019

How are you feeling? Is it time to reach for the skies or is the Brexit backdrop making your temperature dangerously high? This year's National UK Pest Management Survey will get underway in the week of 4 March. If you work at the sharp end of UK pest control look out for your invitation and please participate.

The ninth National UK Pest Management Survey will begin on 11 March and, as they say, you need to be in it, to win it!

Seriously, we need as many eligible readers as possible to take part because your views on the state of the UK industry are important.

Measuring the temperature of any industry is never easy but with market research specialists, Research Engine, on board we have the expertise to interpret the results.

Pest associate editor Helen Riby says: "Research Engine's contribution in validating and analysing the replies in 2018 really added value to the findings. We are delighted they are lending their expertise again."

Who are Research Engine?

Research Engine is a market research agency focused on the agriculture, pest control, amenity, animal health and food industries. Based in the UK, the agency works globally for a range of clients, many of which will be familiar names in the professional pest management sector.

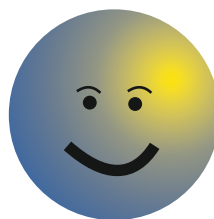
Founded by Mike Heisig and Christopher Horne, the company offers a full spectrum of services including custom (*ad hoc*) research projects, self-service (automated) projects and customised versions of the self-service 'products'.

Not everyone gets the invitation

Invitations to take part via online questionnaires will be dropping into pest professionals' mailboxes during the week of 4 March but not everyone gets that email. Consultants, manufacturers and distributors are deliberately excluded. The invite only goes to readers who are either self-employed pest controllers, or owners, managers, technicians or field biologists in pest management companies, or pest professionals working in local authority pest control units.

For those who haven't taken part before, we don't ask any difficult or trick questions. All the information you provide is treated as confidential and no comments are attributed to individuals, so you can go ahead and say what you really think.

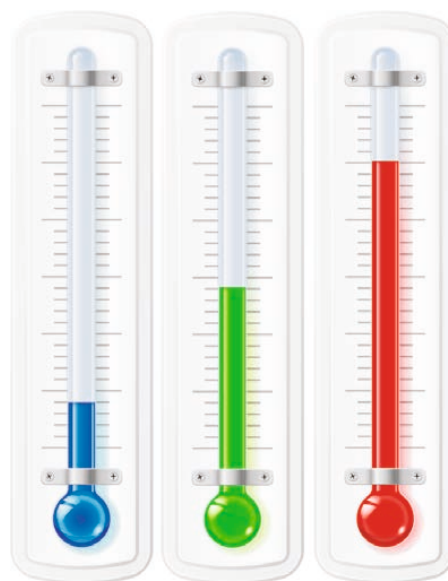
The questions cover things like your pest management activities in the previous 12 months. We also ask for your opinion on



- Don't miss the chance to let your views be known.
- The more people who participate, the more reliable the findings.
- Please take part this year.



Market research specialists Mike Heisig, left and Christopher Horne lending their expertise again



which pests are on the up and which in decline. There are some questions about prospects for our industry in the immediate future and over the next five years. We also ask about the external factors that influence your pest management activities the most.

Don't worry if you don't receive the email, or can't find it in your inbox, you can still take part.

Once the survey is live you can go to www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/2019-survey and follow the link in that article. The more people who take part, the more confidence we can have in the results, so please take part.



Once again the great and the good from the world of bed bugs gathered in Denver, Colorado, USA at the end of November for the 2018 Global Bed Bug Summit. It is jointly hosted by the USA trade Association, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) and Bed Bug Central (the founders of the event back in 2010.) Reporting for **Pest** is renowned bed bug expert, Stephen L Doggett from the Department of Medical Entomology, Westmead Hospital, NSW, Australia.

Now held every other year, the 2018 Global Bed Bug Summit (GBBS) ran from 27-29 November and what was expected to be a smaller event proved to be the exact opposite. There was a record attendance, with some 550 attendees, indicating that bed bugs in the US are still not on the decline, despite the advances achieved elsewhere in the world.

The presentations kicked off with one of the living legends in the field of bed bugs, Dr Dini Miller of Virginia Tech, USA. Dini spoke on the latest breakthroughs and discoveries in bed bug science.

Bed bug baits?

One controversial area of research she touched on was the use of baits for bed bug control, in particular boric acid. The question Dini raised was, how to get bed bugs to feed on the baits, when a nice juicy sleeping human is the tastier option?

Dini also touched on the issue of law suits and the fact that several cases involving million dollar amounts have been awarded in recent years. In all cases of successful litigation, the owner/manager of the facility was unaware of the infestations in the building. Often the managers made no attempt to determine the extent of infestations, did not know what their pest controller was doing and, usually, tried to make residents pay for treatment. In all cases in the US, it is the landlord that is responsible for paying for bed bug control,



Our reporter, Stephen L Doggett



Dr Dini Miller of Virginia Tech



Grant Schwarz of Bed Bug Law (left) with Jeff Lipman. Jeff won the largest bed bug legal battle in the US, where a class action resulted in the awarding of \$2.45million

even if the tenant introduced the insect. Dini stressed that it is critical that managers undertake and document that they have been proactive in bed bug monitoring, in order to reduce the risk of litigation.

Dini has also been investigating the economics of the new remote bed bug monitor from Delta Five compared with pitfall monitors. Delta Five (www.deltafive.com) has developed a remote bed bug monitoring sensor such that, if a bed bug enters the monitor, an alert is sent to a mobile phone with an image of the insect (see also **Pest 58**: August & September 2018). While the Delta Five

monitor involves a greater upfront investment, the fact that they do not require onsite inspection (as per pitfall traps), means that their costs are highly favourable for ongoing monitoring. However, what was not discussed, was the relative efficacy of the new device against pitfall traps.

Bed bug allergens

One of the most interesting presentations was by Dr Zachary DeVries of North Carolina State University, USA, who spoke on bed bug allergens. Allergens from dust mites and cockroaches have been well investigated as triggers for allergic reactions, including respiratory issues such as asthma. However, such research has yet to be undertaken on bed bugs.

For example with cockroaches, one female German cockroach produces 1.56µg of allergens, but the threshold for human sensitisation is only 0.28µg! Effective cockroach management can reduce environmental risk factors and lead to a significant reduction in allergens. Over three months of continual control, cockroach allergens can reduce to levels below where human morbidity occurs. However, this is not the case for bed bugs.

Bed bugs release a range of aggregation pheromones, both volatile and non-volatile compounds such as histamines. Over three months of continual control, Zachary found that there was no decline in bed bug allergens. This means that even if the infestation was eradicated, the allergens could trigger respiratory complaints for a long time afterwards. Perhaps also, with the continual presence of aggregation pheromones, subsequent infestations could become more easily established. In the future, the removal of bed bug allergens must become a routine component of bed bug management.

Resistance and control failures

My presentation focused on insecticide resistance and asked the key question: "Is resistance to blame for control failures?" A history of insecticide resistance in bed bugs was provided, a discussion on resistance mechanisms, why different laboratories achieve variable results in efficacy testing, and what resistance means for the pest manager. Most control failures are the result of not recognising and treating all bed bug harbourages. The key message is that resistance cannot be blamed for control failures, but it does make the possibility of successful control much harder.

Aprehend raises interest in the exhibition

The event was well supported by exhibitors, with some 45 booths. As per usual, there was a range of chemical manufacturers present with application equipment. Heat machines were being promoted by multiple companies and organisations providing business-related products were on display.

Arguably of most interest was the new biopesticide from the company ConidioTec, called Aprehend (see **Pest** issues 52 & 58:



Authors sign their book!

A key event for our roving reporter at this event was a book signing session of the fantastic new textbook *Advances in the Biology and Management of Modern Bed Bugs*. All three editors were present, namely Professor Chow-Yang Lee from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Dr Dini Miller and Stephen Doggett. They spent an hour scribbling their signatures on the books of keen readers who wished to learn about the latest and greatest in bed bug trends and management. The result was that all copies of the book available at the event were sold.



August & September 2017 & 2018). Aprehend is made from a fungal pathogen of insects, *Beauveria bassiana*. This fungi has been long known and used for the control of a variety of insect pests but only recently formulated for bed bug management. Trials on bed bug infestations have shown the product to be highly effective at controlling infestations, with only a single application usually required. Furthermore, it has a residual life of up to three months and so can be used for preventative treatments on a quarterly basis. The only downside is that the fungus is heat sensitive and starts breaking down around 30°C. While this could be an issue for applications in warmer climates against the Tropical bed bug, for much of Europe, this is less of an issue.

Premier global event

In spite of the somewhat grandiose name, the Global Bed Bug Summit is very US centric, with only two international speakers, namely Professor Chow-Yang Lee from Universiti Sains Malaysia and myself and only a few overseas registrants. However, it is the premier global event where one can learn about the latest in bed bugs and their management and certainly worth attending if you are involved in managing this nuisance public health pest. A 10-year anniversary event of the Global Bed Bug Summit is planned for 2020. See you there!



New website for CEPA

The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) has a new website which also sports their new logo. To some eyes it might appear a bit muted and old fashioned but we are assured by those who know that it is contemporary.

CEPA explains that the new website emphasises more clearly the values of the association – to contribute to the protection and assure the wellbeing of EU citizens, for example in the context of Smart, Sustainable and Healthy Cities. The graphics and pictures provide for the presentation of the pest management sector as green, sustainable but also modern and professional. Visit www.cepa-europe.org



New catalogue time

With PestEx on the horizon, all the UK distributors have been beavering away producing their new catalogues. If you are short of any you would like to have, just contact the distributor, or pick one up at PestEx.



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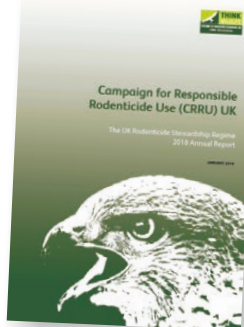
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Stewardship progress tracked

The third annual report from the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) on the implementation of the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime was published in January. The take home message for professional rodenticide users is to continue to work hard to implement stewardship. There are now just two more years in which to show that the regime has made significant progress.



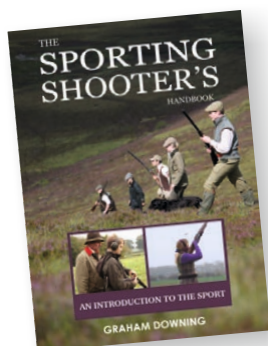
The report focuses on the new activities implemented in the year. The introduction of point of sale audits to check compliance with regime rules on purchaser proof of competence is highlighted as a particular achievement. Also highlighted are the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) modules produced to support user training and competence.

Download a copy from the **Pest** library.

Helpful handbook for shooters

This 224-page hard-backed book, written by Graham Downing, is a complete guide to the sport of shooting and will benefit both novice and experienced shots alike.

It covers the history of shooting, followed by chapters on the anatomy of the gun – shotguns, cartridges, shot types and sizes plus care and cleaning. Gun safety and the law are explained including useful lists of wild birds you can kill during the open season, plus pest birds that are covered by general licences.



With more emphasis on the recreational side, chapters cover game shooting, rough shooting and wildfowling. For pest controllers, pigeon shooting is also covered.

ISBN: 9781846892608 Price £20
Quiller Publishing

New FAOPMA newsletter

The Federation of Asiatic and Oceanic Pest Management Associations (FAOPMA) has just launched a revamped newsletter produced by its two new editors.

FAOPMA is the most influential pest management association in the world, being responsible for the protection of the lives and homes of over four billion people. The editors are no strangers to **Pest** readers. Stephen Doggett, who filed the Global Bed Bug Summit report in this edition (see pages 32 & 33) is one, along with, David Lily, lead entomologist of Ecolab's global pest elimination research team in Sydney.

If you would like to be included in the circulation contact Stephen Doggett at Stephen.Doggett@health.nsw.gov.au



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Which product will win in 2019?

best
product
award
2019
pest

New year, new search to find the product that **Pest** readers will crown the best new product when they vote in the autumn. So, what's impressed you so far? Get your nominations in by filling in the form below or email them, including your name and organisation, to editor@pestmagazine.co.uk

Timetable

- **22 January 2019**
– **Pest** Best Product Award 2019 launched;
- **22 January to 31 August 2019**
– **Pest** readers nominate products;
- **16 September 2019**
– product shortlist drawn-up;
- **16 September to 31 October 2019**
– readers vote to find the winner;
- **1 November 2019**
– votes counted;
- **6 November 2019**
– winners announced at PestTech.



2018 winners, Rotech Sentry from Tenv (2nd), Sakarat D Liquid from Killgerm (1st) and Deadline Fluorescent Tracking Gel (3rd)

It's time to start thinking about which products you want to nominate for the **Pest** Best Product Award 2019.

Products launched between 1 January 2018 and 31 August 2019 are eligible and you can nominate as many products as you want, so there's no need to wait.

What we are looking for is the product that you feel has made the most improvement to your working life and/or working practices as a pest professional.

There's already plenty of choice. Take a look at the new product pages in the six issues of **Pest** magazine published in 2018.

What about the clever solar powered fly trap from Kness, or the innovative Natarro Scout bed bug lure; both seen at PPC Live last March? Or maybe you've fallen in love with the Neo rodent bait station from Pelsis, which finally came onto the market in September.

Or, more recently in **Pest 59**: October & November 2018, there's that new insect lure from Russell IPM, Silvercheck, or the 'freezer in your pocket', Green Hero, developed by Futura and sold in the UK by Edialux and Tenv.

We feel sure there will be plenty more introduced over the coming months.

Any product introduced commercially during the qualifying period can be put forward, with one exception. Products which achieved a first, second or third place in last year's award cannot be nominated for a second time. So **you cannot nominate** Sakarat D Liquid, nor Rotech Sentry, nor Deadline Fluorescent Gel.

Pest readers are in the driving seat; it's your vote that counts.



2018 winner, Sakarat D Liquid from Killgerm

Nomination form

best
product
award
2019
pest

I would like to nominate this/these product(s):

1

2

3

4

5

Name:

Organisation:

Tel:

Email:

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

All the rules are at: www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/bpa-rules

Exosect gone bust

Although some months ago, there has been virtually no coverage that Winchester-based Exosect went into receivership on 18 October 2018.

Founded as a spin-out company from Southampton University by Philip Howse in 2001, Exosect specialised in high technology pheromone-based mating disruption products.

Latterly they concentrated on the agricultural sector, but did develop the Exoroach cockroach station and the moth mating disruption products, Exosex SP tab and Exosex CL. So what has happened here?

For the Exoroach cockroach stations, which use the electrostatic powder (Entostat), the position remains unaltered as the product was sold to West Sussex-based Pest Trader in 2015. It is less clear regarding the Exosex tabs.

As **Pest** went to press we were assured that discussions are at an advanced stage to ensure that Exosex continues to be available from Pest Trader.

Goodnature A18 squirrel trap

Not to be confused with the Goodnature A24 trap (licensed only for rats and stoats and launched in spring 2017), the Goodnature A18 can be used for both rats and squirrels.

It is approved in England, Scotland and Wales under the individual Spring Trap Approval Orders.

However, in Scotland there is a requirement that the trap must be set in a natural, or artificial tunnel, or enclosure which is suitable for minimising the chances of capturing, killing or injuring non-target species. It must be at least 30cm above ground level and be fitted with an artificial tunnel that protrudes at least 70mm from the trap entrance.

Both versions of these traps are multi-kill, self re-setting traps powered by a CO₂ canister suitable for use in a variety of situations including roof spaces, woodlands, industrial sites and farms.



www.killgerm.com



Water-activated fumigant

Vazor fumigator is a water-activated smoke generator, based on the pyrethroid, cyphenothrin.

As it is water activated, it does not require a wick or a flame, reducing the risk to both the operator and client, explains Killgerm. The fine smoke particles give good penetration into cracks and crevices, providing excellent efficacy against a range of flying and crawling insects, with no staining or dust residues.

www.killgerm.com



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www.sumitomo-chemical.co.uk

RatMat is here...

Pest is pleased to report that, finally, the RatMat is available to purchase. In **Pest 51**: June & July 2017 we reported on how a Cornish doctor had developed this, then the product was on show at PestTech last autumn and in the last edition (**Pest 60**) we invited the developer to describe the path to commercialisation.

Safe, scalable and transportable, RatMat is an innovative, humane and cost effective solution to protect property from rodents. Using the principles of an electric fence, the RatMat tiles can be used as a long-term solution to prevent rats and mice causing expensive damage to property and all types of items in storage.



www.killgerm.com

Keep cool... not stung

The new Ultra bee suit manufactured by Cornwall-based BBwear is made from a versatile high tec, fully vented 3D fabric which will keep pest controllers both protected and cool when out controlling wasp and hornet nests.

Spotted at Parasitec in Paris last autumn, the suit is made from 5mm 3D fabric – deeper than a wasp, bee or hornet sting.

Tested by pest controllers in temperatures over 36°C, it offers improved comfort, flexibility and protection whilst keeping the user cool.

And, it comes with double lined pockets and poly cotton at the ankles and wrists so it can be tucked into boots and gloves.



www.bbwear.co.uk



Heavy duty cotton

Information on another new suit has crossed our desks. It's on the Sentinel suit from Neath-based bee experts, Old Castle Farm Hives. After years of bee keeping experience, they have developed the Sentinel suit specifically for pest control.

The heavy-duty, yet comfortable, material has been used effectively in Central Europe for many years. It provides protection against the range of wasps and hornets, offering a combination of security and comfort making it a versatile suit at a competitive, realistic cost.

www.pestcontrolsuits.co.uk

Ceiling light fly trap

From the Eradisect range, this light killer is designed to fit into false ceiling panels in situations where discretion is the order of the day.

It is fitted with two lamps requiring annual replacement and glue boards to be changed every two months. Effective against flies, mosquitoes and midges, it provides coverage of areas up to 80m², claims 1env.



www.1env.co.uk

Neporex 50SP reformulated



Now reformulated as a 50% soluble powder, this product containing cyromazine, is an insect growth regulator that prevents treated larvae from developing into flies. Applied either as a spray or granules onto slurry/manure or litter pits, it can be used in animal housing or on landfill sites.

www.killgerm.com

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- Bird scaring;
- Use of birds of prey & public handling of falcons;
- The use of dogs/ferrets.

Insurance benefits summary

- Public/products liability;
- Employer's liability;
- Permanent loss of use of detection dogs;
- Professional indemnity;
- Business interruption;
- Personal accident.

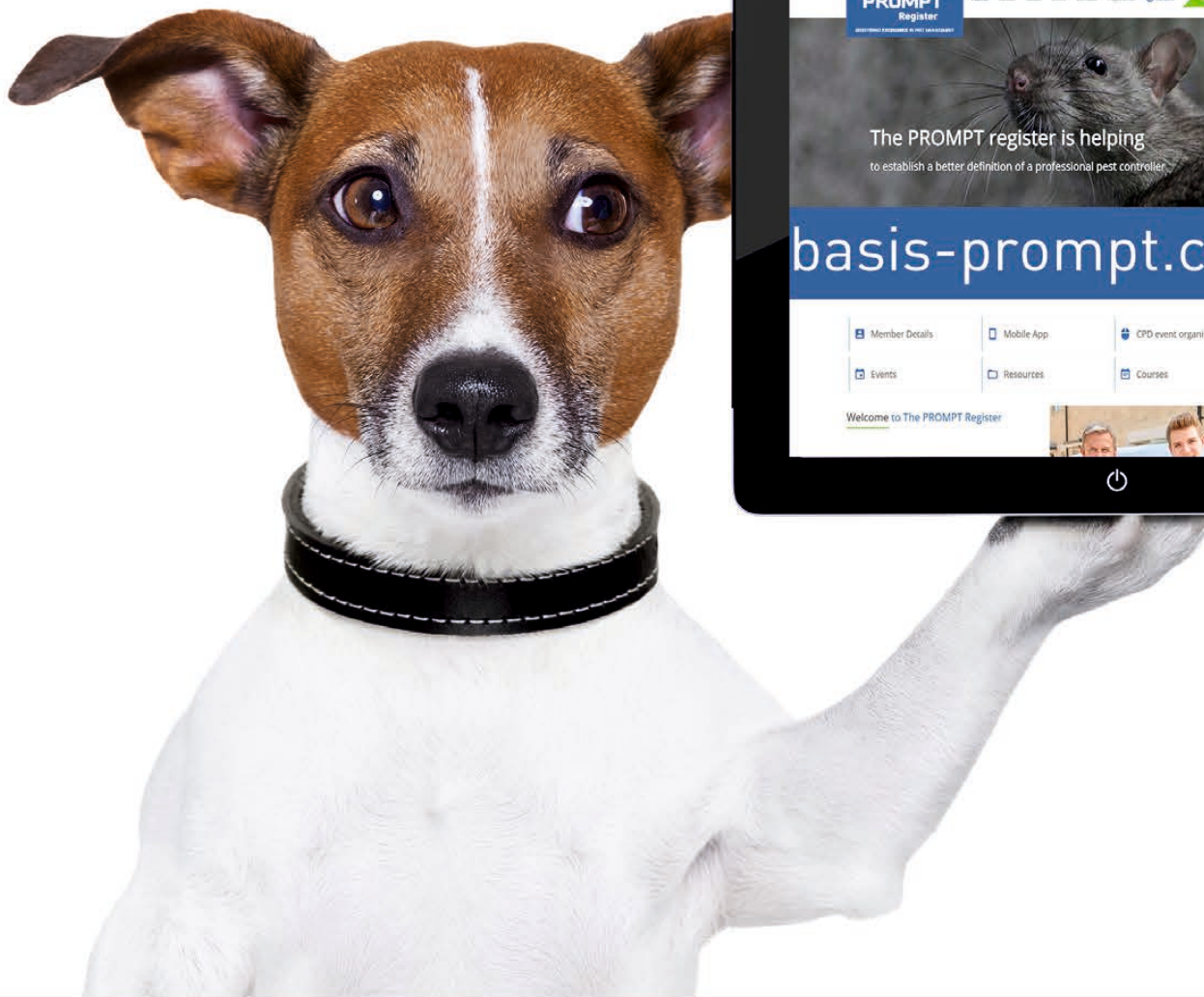
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Pass a *Pest test* online and get CPD automatically

Since the middle of January anyone taking an online **Pest Test** will have seen a difference in the speed at which their BASIS PROMPT Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points have been added to their training record. It now only takes 24 hours at most.

Associate editor, Helen Riby explains: "Don't ask us how, but some clever digital wizardry by the company that maintains the **Pest** website and the BASIS PROMPT data manager, Andrew Boulding, means that from now on the **Pest** system is speaking directly to the PROMPT system. CPD points will appear on records within 24 hours of any test being correctly completed.

"We are delighted that this automation has been added and believe our investment to dispense with the labour intensive manual inputting of test results will be welcomed by readers who need PROMPT points," says Helen. "To be frank we have been overwhelmed by the number of people doing the tests – in 2018 there were 1,878 entries and every single one had to be inputted manually into the PROMPT system."

Of course, the paper system is still in operation, but it still requires manual input so a longer wait for the points!

Know your account number

The benefits of automation are clear but, the upgrade isn't perfect. As there are now two computers talking to each other, the system has to rely on the account number to identify the person who has earned the points.

"In the past, when there was human involvement, we could check that the name associated with the account matched the name on the **Pest Test** entry. But, no longer, if you accidentally input someone else's account number – that's the eight digit number beginning with 200 – then that someone else will get your points. The moral of this story is always double check you've entered the correct account number before you hit that final submit button. The new system will also send you an email confirming the account number you've entered so, if you spot a mistake then, please get in touch with BASIS as soon as you can."

For now **Pest Test** will only earn you points for the BASIS PROMPT register. BPCA did approach us to ask if we would like our Tests to be included in the new BPCA Registered system but having just found a way round an administrative mountain we really didn't feel we could take on another CPD system and return to manually adding points. Looking to the future it may be that more clever digital wizardry can be introduced, but, for now, **Pest Tests** are only for PROMPT.

Collecting PROMPT CPD?

If you're collecting Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points as a member of BASIS PROMPT then the number you need to claim the two points available for reading **Pest** magazine throughout 2019 is: PC/79634/19/g

PROMPT
Register

REGISTERING EXCELLENCE IN PEST MANAGEMENT

Pest Test 61

Also
online

BASIS has made two PROMPT CPD points available if you can demonstrate that you have improved your knowledge, understanding and technical know-how by passing the **Pest Test**. So, read through our articles on 'Ficam D re-approved but...' (pages 8-11), 'Don't be afraid to lift the cover' (page 15-17), and '2018 Bed bug summit' (page 32 & 33) 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 Ficam D's label has changed. In which of the following structures is Ficam D no longer allowed to be used?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Garages	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Greenhouses
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Lofts	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Sheds
- 2 What is the maximum number of treatments specified on the new labels?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 1	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 111
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 11	<input type="checkbox"/> d) No limit specified
- 3 Why is John Hope concerned about the personal protective equipment requirements on the new label?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Type 4 coveralls are expensive	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Nitrile gloves are hard to come by
<input type="checkbox"/> b) They ignore the threat from the wasps themselves	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Particle filter masks are not a good look
- 4 What percentage of rat problems inside people's homes does David Parnell attribute to drain defects?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 78%	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 89%
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 87%	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 98%
- 5 Which of the following do Dave Oldbury and David Parnell agree is the most common drain defect?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Failure to replace the stopper in the rodding eye	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Drains built over inappropriate substrate
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Widespread use of plastic pipes	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Worn out Victorian drains
- 6 How much was awarded in the largest legal bed bug battle in the USA?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) \$24,500	<input type="checkbox"/> c) \$2.45 million
<input type="checkbox"/> b) \$245,000	<input type="checkbox"/> d) \$24.5 million

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

PROMPT account number: 200 _____

Events galore this spring

It's usually the autumn when the calendar of events vying for a pest professional's attention gets fraught but, the spring of 2019 is making a bid for a similar description.

Obviously for UK-based professionals, PestEx in London on 20 & 21 March is top of the list but, before then, there's the Italian flagship event, Disinfestando, on 6 & 7 March. This year Disinfestando has moved from Rimini to the commercial and let's face it, the fashion heartland of Italy, Milan. The move makes it much easier to get to from the UK. **Pest** will be there but, if you (or your partner) fancy seeing all that Italian style at first hand, arrive before the event.

Then again, around a month later, on 1 & 2 April to be precise, you might prefer a few days in Barcelona when there's another 'work reason' to travel. The Barcelona Pest Control Innovation Forum (BCPF) runs over those two days and much of it is held in English so, lack of language skills, is no reason to not be there!

In May it's Budapest for an 'away Parasitec'. That takes place on 9 & 10 May. Budapest is a lovely city for a few days away from the day job and we're anticipating that Parasitec in that city will be a great event.

So how do you choose? Fortunately that's not our decision. We've got to go to them all. Hope to see you at one, or other of them.



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Diary dates

6-7 March 2019

Disinfestando 2019

Milan Convention Centre, MiCo (1st floor) – Milano
Congressi Piazzale Carlo Magno, 1 – 20149 Milano
<http://www.disinfestando.com/en/home-2/>

20-21 March 2019

PestEx 2019

ExCel, London E16 1XL
<http://pestex.org/>

1-2 April 2019

Barcelona Pest Control Innovation Forum

The Foundation of the Academy of Medical Sciences and Health of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, C/Can Caralleu, n° 1-7 08017 Barcelona, Spain
<http://www.barcelonapestinnovation.org/en/>

9-10 April 2019

PestWorld East

St. Regis Abu Dhabi Nation Tower, Corniche P.O. Box 60476 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates
<https://npmapestworld.org/education-events/upcoming-events/pestworld-east/>

9-10 May 2019

Parasitec 2019 - Budapest

HungExpo, B Pavilion, Hungary London E16 1XL
<https://www.parasitec.org/budapest/>

9-13 September 2019

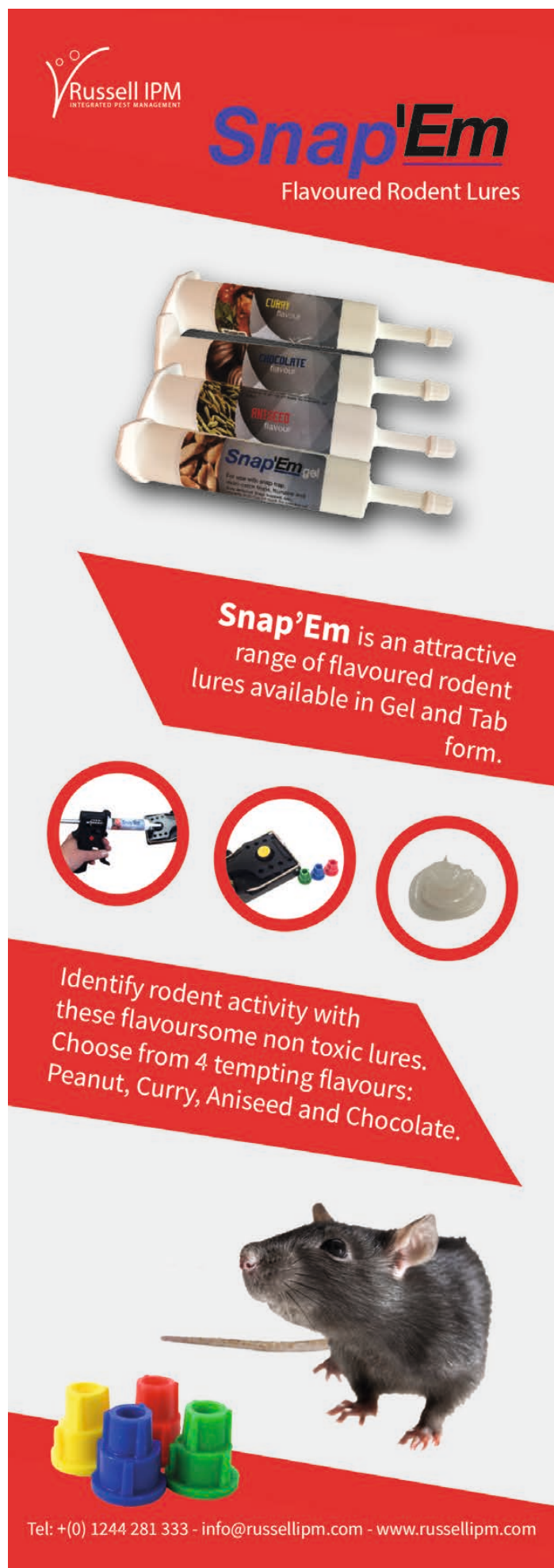
12th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference

VetAgro Sup, Campus Agronomique of Clermont-Ferrand, 89, avenue de l'Europe - BP 35, 63370 Lempdes
<https://evpmc2019.sciencesconf.org/>

24-27 September 2019

FAOPMA - Pest Summit 2019

Daejeon Convention Center, Daejeon, Korea
<http://www.faopma2019korea.org/>



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