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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY

issue 129

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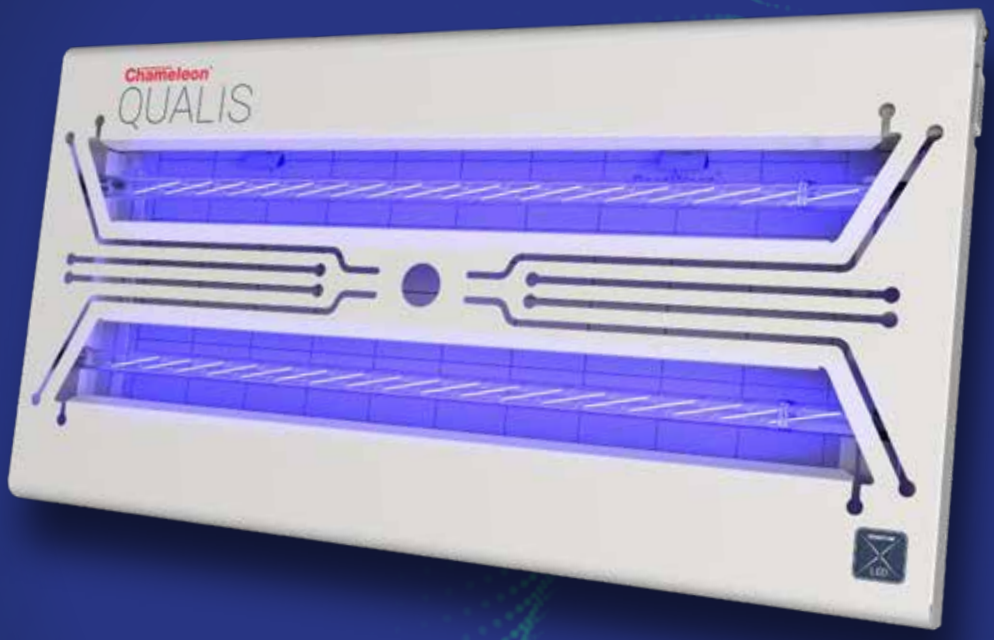

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Bitesize...

Bacteria carried by insects 6

A new study provides novel insights into household arthropods as potential reservoirs of infectious disease due to their carriage of bacteria.

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All Pest Control News readers can now receive two BASIS PROMPT CPD points per calendar year. All you need to do to claim these points is include PCN on your annual BASIS PROMPT record using the following code:

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Pest Control News Limited, Wakefield Road, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 9AJ.

tel: 01924 268400

e-mail:

editor@pestcontrolnews.com

technical@pestcontrolnews.com

Water for kids celebrating 25 years

This year, Water for Kids are celebrating 25 Years work – a huge milestone!

Water for Kids was set up as a charity in 1996 after two Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) visited Peru as part of a scheme to help eradicate cholera. They were concerned that people in small and less formal settlements needed environmental health services in general and safe water in particular. They looked for a charity which was addressing these issues, but they could not find one.

So they set up Water for Kids as a UK charity, rooted in environmental health to improve the health and wellbeing of children and communities in low income countries through the provision of safe water, good sanitation and other related public health measures where current provision is absent or inadequate.

Killgerm Chemicals supports Water for Kids all through the year and raises money for them at the annual PCN Dinner, through a popular raffle prize draw. The raffle last year in November raised £3,600 which was match funded by Killgerm.

For more information, please visit www.waterforkids.org.uk

www.pestcontrolnews.com/news

Syngenta appoints Sean Loakes as Technical Manager

Sean Loakes has been appointed as Syngenta Professional Solutions Technical Manager for the UK and Ireland.

Sean expands the existing Syngenta technical and business team, to offer further specialist trials expertise and developing new integrated solutions for pest control, turf & landscape and ornamentals production.

Sean's role is dedicated to customers in UK and Ireland, and will also support the continued work of Glenn Kirby, who now has the extended responsibility as Technical Manager for Turf & Landscape across Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

A qualified biologist, Sean has had a career in environmental science and research through practical field trials and laboratory studies, primarily focused on pesticide efficacy and best practice.

"With the increasing importance of biopesticides within integrated management programmes, there's an exciting opportunity to develop new strategies to meet the evolving challenges for customers," he said. "Syngenta has an exciting pipeline of R&D products and services. I look forward to working with customers, researchers and the industry to develop new solutions."

Welcoming Sean to the company, Daniel Lightfoot, Syngenta Business Manager for North West Europe, said: "Syngenta is committed to developing its unrivalled technical solutions. Sean's science and research background brings further experience and innovation to support customers with new products and achieving the best possible results."

ICUP2022 - New Year update

On behalf of the ICUP Organising Committee I would like to wish you all the very best for 2022.

Here in Barcelona we are working hard on our forthcoming conference. We have received many offers of excellent presentations and are still processing these, but the draft Conference programme will be on our website before long.

So, that's all for now, but if you have any questions about the Conference, do consult our website, or contact us directly through the 'General info' tab on the website.

Again, very best wishes for the New Year, and we are looking forward to seeing you in Barcelona,

Dr Rubén Bueno

Chair of ICUP 2022 Organising Committee

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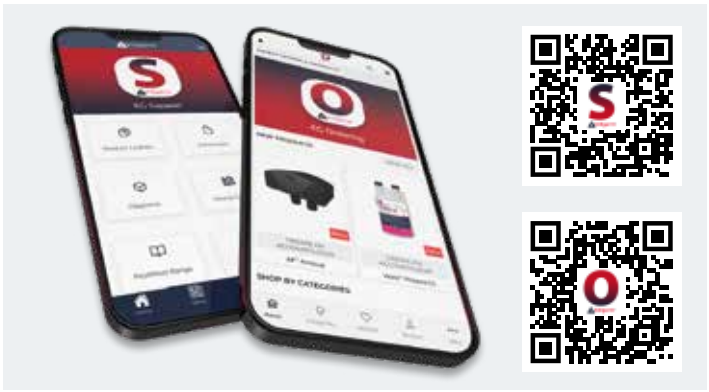

The Killgerm Apps are here!

Killgerm have launched not one, but two apps to provide one total pest control solution. Now you can order their products on your fingertips and get all of the latest, trsuted pest control info, whenever you're connected. Download today on the App Store or Google Play.

The 2022 Killgerm Catalogue is also now available! Request your copy, use the QR code and step into your new future…

Dates for the diary

Its all go-go for exhibitions this year, doesn't it feel good?

To kick off, PestEx is just around the corner, on the 15-16th March at Excel in London. The rest of Europe events are as follows:

PestMed 30th March- 1st April, BolognaFiere.

Benelux Pest 6th April, NH Conference Centre Koningshof

Expocida 7-8th April, IFEMA - Madrid

Pest Protect 10-12th May, Arena Berlin

Citizen science project needs pest controllers, farmers and gamekeepers

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Rodenticide effectiveness could be "hit or miss" in large swathes of the UK due to the unknown resistance status of rat and mouse populations, according to Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use chairman Dr Alan Buckle. Pest controllers, farmers and gamekeepers are being invited to join a citizen science project to investigate.

"Unknown resistance status covers much of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and central England," says Dr Buckle. "Elsewhere, we know that an area from Bristol to Dover west-east, and Oxford to Southampton north-south, has multiple locations where genes for resistance have been identified. Less clustered pockets have been found in Devon, East Anglia, Greater Manchester, West and North Yorkshire, further north east and along the River Severn valley from Somerset to north west Shropshire."

To address the knowledge vacuum, CRRU and the Animal and Plant Health Agency have launched a free DNA testing initiative that depends for success on pest controllers, farmers and gamekeepers. For a free indication of their location's resistance status, they send 2-3cm tail end samples from freshly deceased rats or mice for DNA analysis.

In areas where resistance has already been confirmed, three-quarters of rats carried a resistance gene but one-in-five had two different genes, known as 'hybrid-resistance'. In house mice, several years of testing has found 93.5% carrying a resistance gene, with many also having hybrid resistance.

Dr Alan Buckle says this poses potentially unknown difficulties for rodent control. "Where resistant rodents are present, some rodenticide products will be ineffective. Equally important is that where resistance genes are still absent, ultra-potent resistance-breaking products may be in use unnecessarily."

Among second generation rodenticide compounds, the two most commonly resisted are bromadiolone and difenacoum, along with first generation compounds, warfarin and coumatetralyl.

For sending tail samples, free packaging kits with instructions are available from CRRU (thinkwildlife.org/anticoagulant-resistance-project/ or short cut bit.ly/3kuBoOW). CRRU confirms that samples are welcome from all UK locations.

Bacteria carried by insects

Household arthropods as a reservoir of human opportunistic pathogens

A new study from Aston University, University of Birmingham and Killgerm Chemicals Ltd.

A new study provides novel insights into household arthropods as potential reservoirs of infectious disease due to their carriage of bacteria.

The study was undertaken by PhD researcher Dr Federica Boiocchi, supervised by Professor Anthony Hilton of Aston University and Dr Matthew Davies of Killgerm Chemicals Ltd. The aim was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the indoor arthropod community, the diversity of bacteria carried by them, and their potential role as disease vectors. This is a largely unexplored area of research so the results are particularly interesting. The unofficial title could be 'bugs on bugs in homes!'

What did the scientists do?

Federica studied the arthropod community and their associated microbiota diversity, from twenty indoor environments. These environments were sampled over a period of twelve months, including both urban and suburban households. 'Citizen scientists' (volunteer contributors to scientific research!) were recruited in the West Midlands (UK). The 'citizen scientists' were crucial to the success of the project. A comparison was made of the arthropod diversity between environments and over the sampling months. The external (exoskeleton) and internal (gut) bacteria associated with live-captured arthropods, was assessed using both a traditional culture-based and an unbiased metabarcoding approach.

What did they find?

For the first time, researchers described the external and internal bacteria of 14 arthropod families found in indoor environments. A key finding was that both the external and internal bacteria are potential opportunistic pathogens of humans, with potential implications for public health.

Over the 12 months period, 215 arthropods were identified. Pholcidae (cellar spiders), were the most common family, making up 33.5% of captures, then Coccinellidae (ladybirds; 32.1%) and Lepismatidae (silverfish; 12.1%). Rarer examples included Chironomidae (non-biting midges; 6%),

Calliphoridae (blue bottles; 3.3%), Culicidae (mosquitoes; 2.3%), Pyralidae (pyralid moths; 1.9%), Tipulidae (crane flies; 1.4%), Blattidae (cockroaches; 0.9%), Noctuidae (night-flying moths; 0.9%) and Vespidae (wasps; 0.9%).

The bacteria identified by the culture-based and the metabarcoding approach were checked against the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) list of biological agents. This was done to look for the presence of pathogenic bacteria associated with the household arthropods. The metabarcoding and the culture-based approach shared 10 families of bacteria, which were all listed in the HSE database as potentially pathogenic. A single bacterial family from the HSE database was identified solely through the culture-based approach. Contrastingly, 18 bacterial families were uniquely identified via the metabarcoding approach (a sensitive and informative approach!). A significant positive correlation was found between isolated human pathogens and indoor arthropods, as well as between environmental bacteria and outdoor arthropods. This of course makes sense based on the biology, location, habits and behaviour of insects and other arthropods.

The metabarcoding approach identified a greater number of potentially opportunistic pathogenic bacteria associated with household arthropods. This improves understanding of the role of non-pest arthropods as carriers of human pathogens. The study provides important insights into the role that non-pest arthropods may have as carriers of opportunistic pathogens in households.

What other research have Aston University done regarding pests?

- An Aston University study found nine in 10 insects analysed from English hospitals were carrying potentially harmful bacteria – over half of which were antibiotic-resistant
- 'Bugs with bugs' were collected from food preparation areas and wards including neonatal and maternity units
- Findings underlined the importance of pest control measures in healthcare environments to prevent public health risk to patients

More than 50% of bacteria recovered from flying insects in a group of English hospitals were resistant to one or more antibiotics, posing a potential infection risk to patients.

The Aston University study collected almost 20,000 insect samples – including houseflies, 'filth flies' such as bluebottles and greenbottles and a variety of 'drain flies' - from seven NHS hospital sites in England. Microbiological analysis found that nearly nine in 10 of those tested were carrying potentially harmful bacteria such as *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, either internally or externally on their bodies.

Flying insects harbouring bacteria were collected from a number of locations throughout the hospitals using ultraviolet (UV) light flytraps and electronic fly killers. They included areas where food for patients, visitors and staff was prepared or stored, as well as wards, neonatal units and maternity units. In some cases, the level of bacteria carried by flying insects was enough to potentially cause infection.

Over 80 bacterial strains were isolated from the insect samples. Enterobacteriaceae – a family that includes *E. coli* and various other faecal / gut bacteria - were the most commonly isolated, accounting for 41% of isolations from flying insects, followed by *Bacillus* (which includes the 'food poisoning bug' *B. cereus*) at 24% and staphylococci (which includes *S. aureus*, a cause of skin infections, abscesses and respiratory infections) comprising 19%.

The analysis showed that 53% of the strains were resistant to one or more class of antibiotics. Of this figure, 19% were resistant to multiple antibiotics, a feature known as multi-drug resistance (MDR). Penicillin was found to be the least effective antibiotic, with many bacteria showing resistance. Resistance to other commonly-administered antibiotics, including vancomycin and levofloxacin, was also observed.

The study, published in the highly-respected Journal of Medical Entomology, was co-authored by successful PhD student Dr Federica Boiocchi, and Professor Anthony Hilton, both from Aston University's School of Life and Health Sciences and Dr Matthew Davies of Killgerm Chemicals Ltd.

Where to find the full papers?

The newest study, described in this article, is available from: Boiocchi, F., Derelle, R., Davies, M., Orsini, L. and Hilton, A., 2021. Non-pest household arthropods as a reservoir of human opportunistic pathogens. Authorea Preprints. https://www.authorea.com/doi/full/10.22541/au.163874802.28581869

An Examination of Flying Insects in Seven Hospitals in the United Kingdom and Carriage of Bacteria by True Flies, was published in the Journal of Medical Entomology in 2019 https://doi.org/10.1093/jme/tjz086

The research group's previous papers, 'The housefly *Musca domestica* as a mechanical vector of *Clostridium difficile*' and 'Acquisition and retention of *Clostridium difficile* by *Musca domestica* larvae and pupae during metamorphosis' are both published in the Journal of Hospital Infection in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The earlier studies described the potential for adult *M. domestica* to contribute to environmental persistence and spread of 'hospital superbug' *C. difficile* in hospitals, highlighting adult flies as realistic vectors of this micro-organism in clinical areas. Furthermore, the potential antimicrobial action of *M. domestica* larvae and their extracts against *C. difficile* spores was highlighted as warranting further investigation.

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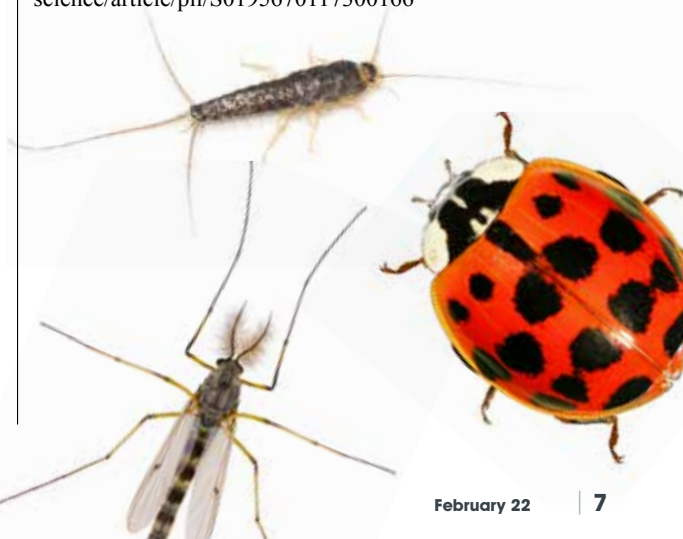

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How podcasts can improve your business

So, before we start, I think I should make one thing pretty clear. I’m not exactly the most unbiased of people to be writing this article. I have a proverbial horse in the race; well, three horses actually.

Not only do I love listening to podcasts, but I currently produce, host, and edit a trio of them. One’s about film, the other surrounds American football, and the final one covers pest control (talk about triple threat). I’m not telling you this as a form of advertisement (but, as always, don’t forget to rate and review); it should help to indicate the sheer breadth of options when it comes to podcasts.

Whether you’re into pest control or politics, paintballing or pancakes, there’ll be a podcast for you; and if not, just give it five minutes. It’s always important to remember this if you choose to dip your toe into the water and begin your own podcast. Your listeners will have consciously found your niche. They’ll probably be like-minded, so try and create a show which you would enjoy listening to.

Frustratingly, for us I-knew-them-before-they-got-big folk, podcasts have exploded in tandem with the effects of the pandemic. Just like how streaming services took this opportunity to seemingly overtaken traditional television mediums, podcasting has gained on radio. Podcasts, or Netflix for your ears (something I’m trying to coin), placate the growing appetite for consumers to have everything on-demand. Once downloaded, you can listen to your favourite episodes wherever, whenever.

The exponential growth has led to more pairs of ears, but it also means more competition. To combat the increasingly competitive market, it’s crucial to lean into what you know. Fingers crossed, your business and its sector should, hopefully, be two things you know very well indeed.

Let’s say you wanted to begin a corporate podcast about (*thinks abouts a completely random topic*) pest control, for example. Depending on your skillset, you could go in a variety of directions with this starting

point. If you feel you have exemplary technical knowledge, you could conduct an informative podcast where you help out other pest controllers. Whereas, if you think your personality is a key selling point for your company, you could begin an entertaining podcast in which you regale the listeners with your interesting first-hand experiences.

Okay, now that my flag is well and truly planted, let's move on to why they're actually paying me for this article (wait, what do you mean I'm not being paid?). How can a podcast help your business?

To start with, it is an ingenious way of opening up a form of discourse between yourself and the potential customer-base. Without the restricting time pressures that advertiser-funded mediums succumb to, podcasting is ideal for long-form discussions. As well as that, the experience of talking directly into your customers ears is an intimate (and when you think about it, creepy) one. These two factors can make listening to a podcast a personal experience, which, over time, can help nature brand loyalty. Due to this, I'd advocate keeping your podcast casual and idiosyncratic as possible. Through over-producing it, you'd literally be giving up the advantage podcasting gives you.

Leading off this point, another benefit is that podcasting can allow your company to round-off its brand identity. By putting as much of your personality into the content as possible, you can leave the audience unambiguous as to your brand's ethos and ideology. In a medium controlled by you, the subject matter, the show's runtime, and strategic editing can all aid your business in getting across your desired image.

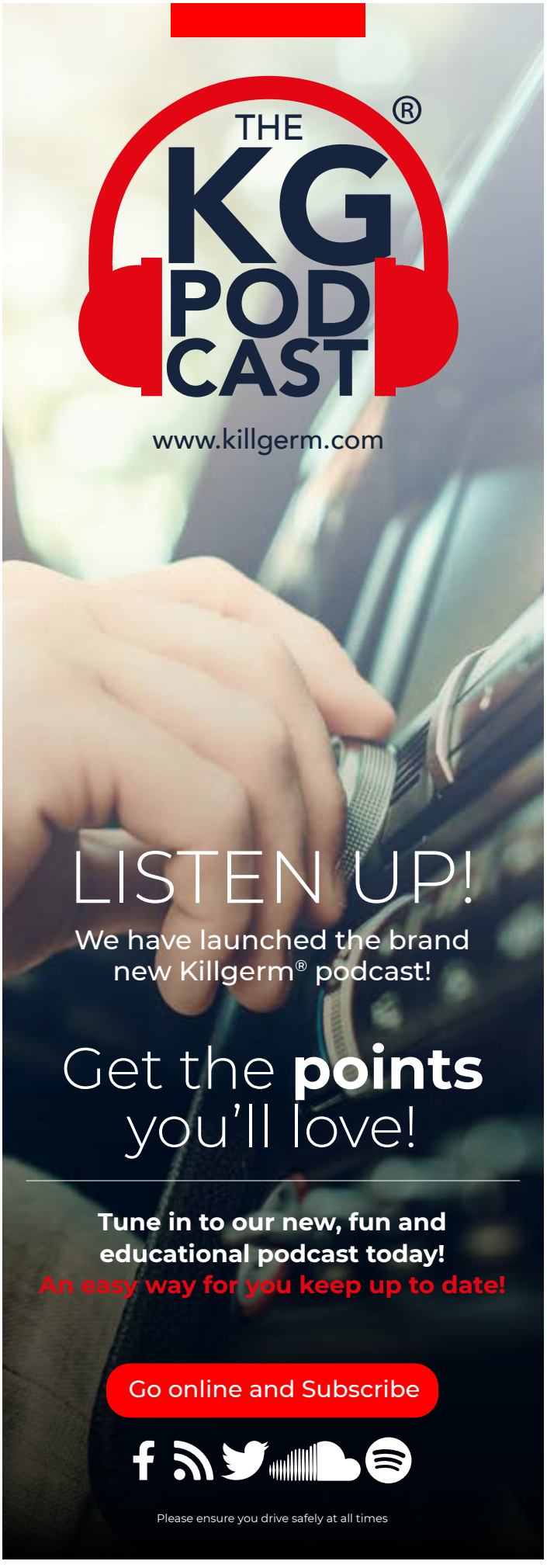
Despite being a proud ambassador for podcasting, even I know the limitations of podcasts being a company's focal marketing strategy. They aren't ideal for lead-generation as a significant reason that us cheapskates listen to them is because they're free. Therefore, please note that podcasting should rather act as another string to the business' bow, as part of a wider holistic marketing plan.

Always remember, as with most marketing, it mainly comes down to consistency. Not just in terms of quality but scheduling too. It's always fun to start exciting new marketing strands, but I'd advised to ensure that you accumulate several episodes prior to dropping your first. Please be aware that inconsistent podcast scheduling can signify unprofessionalism, which might subsequently have the adverse effect of damaging your company's veneer.

Whether this article has enticed you to listen to or, even, start a podcast, either option can help create integrate you into the quasi-social experience of podcasting. So, if you choose to join a community of listeners or grow one of your own, I believe your life shall be enriched for the experience.

Who knows? Before you known it, you'll begin to master the art (that's right, I am that pretentious), you'll be well on your way to becoming a podcast savant. Then, once things really kick into stride, you'll unwittingly find yourself slip into uttering that immortalise cliché "don't forget to rate and review".

To hear more from Luke, you can listen to the monthly Killgerm Podcast.



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PestEx is back! That's right, after an unexpected three-year break PestEx is finally heading to London this year.

BPCA is back at ExCeL on 16 and 17 March for an action-packed two days.

[NEW] SPOTLIGHT THEATRE

This show puts pest professionals at the heart of the PestEx agenda. Plenty of pest controllers have been invited to present in the Spotlight Theatre. People will showcase their work, sharing case studies about how they dealt with difficult sites, customers and species.

TECHNICAL THEATRE

In the same spirit, the trusty Technical Theatre is chock full of topics that you requested. There are sessions from pest management consultants, doctors and professors from universities sharing their studies and research projects, representatives from associated sectors and some really technical nitty-gritty for those science fans out there!

THE LARGEST ARRAY OF VISITORS

The other half of PestEx is the fantastic exhibition hall, and the 80+ exhibitors have been busy working on new products, organising fun competitions and putting together exclusive offers. Make your way around the hall and take in all that they have to offer because without their support this event wouldn't be possible!

FANTASTIC PRIZES

On the BPCA stand, they've got some fun things too. BPCA is running a PROtect at PestEx reaction game with some great prizes up for grabs, including a PS5 bundle. Some exhibitors have kindly offered prizes too, so if you're pre-registered be sure to put your reactions to the test.

NETWORK AREAS

The PestEx coffee area will give you a chance to catch up with people you've not seen in years, plus finally meet those you've only ever seen over Zoom – PestEx is your chance to make those connections.

CPD POINTS

BPCA Registered

Each seminar session will be worth 1 CPD point with a maximum of 7 points available per day. Any other meetings or conversations with exhibitors can be logged as unstructured CPD in your CPD Diary bpca.org.uk/add.

BASIS PROMPT

1 point for each seminar, 2 points for attending the show. Members are able to gain a maximum of 7 points per day (5 seminars and 2 for attending the show).

Don't forget to include your CPD number when you register for the event, to ensure BPCA can scan your seminar attendance on the day.

REGISTER NOW

If you haven't already registered, hopefully, you'll agree that PestEx is the not-to-be-missed event of 2022 and you're opening up the website to register now!

Visit pestex.org/register to make sure you and your team are on the guest list and have that all-important free entry to our competition.

See you there!

COVID-19

While we'd hoped that Covid-19 would be a distant memory by now, unfortunately, it's something we're all continuing to adapt to. BPCA is working with ExCeL, suppliers and exhibitors, to make the show a safe environment for everyone involved.

If you have any concerns, visit the PestEx website (pestex.org/covid-19) or give the BPCA a call on +44 (0) 1332 225 111.

pestex.org

PestEx Exhibitors Floor Plan

Future of rodenticide use depends on ALL farmers, gamekeepers and pest controllers

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Collectively, UK farmers, gamekeepers, pest controllers and rodenticide suppliers share a troublesome Achilles heel that is not going to heal on its own. The problem is leakage of rodenticide poisons into wildlife. Routine monitoring of barn owls by the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime from 2016 to 2021 finds "stubbornly static" rodenticide presence in nearly 90% of barn owls.

Particularly troubling is that two-thirds of the barn owls sampled each year are selected intentionally as juveniles, defined as less than two years of age. This means these birds acquired rodenticide residues with stewardship rules in place. By the way, almost all barn owls analysed have died by collision with vehicles or natural causes rather than a fatal level of rodenticide.

Although not monitored so routinely, many other predator, scavenger and prey species are also known to carry rodenticide contamination. These include red kites, buzzards and kestrels; small mammals such as voles and field mice; together, it is thought, with slugs, snails and the animals for which these are a food source, including hedgehogs and foxes.

Clearly, this leakage cannot be allowed to go on and stewardship's HSE-led Government Oversight Group is conducting a formal review of the regime's first five-years. Its ultimate sanction would be an outright ban on rodenticide use, regardless of operator training and certification, except perhaps by rigorously qualified pest control contractors.

But things needn't come to this if shoddy practice in rodenticide use by some farmers, gamekeepers, and pest controllers too, is eliminated.

That's what the information here is about, based on the recently updated Code of Best Practice in rodent control published by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use UK.

Something important that all rodenticide users should know is that the Biocidal Products Regulation GB governing rodenticides requires that "biocidal products shall be used in compliance with the terms and conditions of authorisation". These are summarised on product labels, thereby creating a legal obligation on all users to follow instructions for use exactly.

Of course, you can study the CRRU Code of Best Practice's 30+ pages of information and guidance, available to download from thinkwildlife.org/download/crru-uk-code-of-best-practice-2021/?wpdmdl=18095. Clearly, that is where to go for more detail than space allows here.

Meanwhile, in bite-size chunks, here is what's covered in this newsletter:

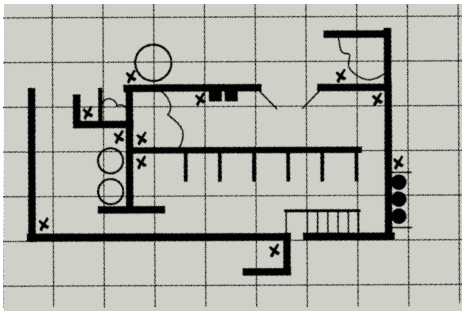
1) First things first – a clear plan for control and staying legal.
2) Risk hierarchy – simplest and lowest risk first.
3) Non-poison – much to gain, few disadvantages.
4) Rodenticides – which to use for best and cost-effective results?
5) Bad landlord – repel or exclude unwanted visitors.
6) Checklist for max impact, max cost-effectiveness, no unintended consequences.

Part 1: First things first – a clear plan for control and staying legal

Perhaps the most important equipment you need is also the cheapest… a pencil and paper.

Start with a printed layout of the area you're covering, or sketch one for yourself. Mark on it a few critical things:

- All the places you can recall where control of rats or mice has been required in the past.
- Anywhere around the site where rats could be living. Too often, this will include scrap machinery, old straw stacks, rotting timber, a derelict caravan and various 'treasure' that was once considered too useful or valuable to throw away or burn. Mouse nests will be inside buildings.
- Current location of all bait boxes and DIY protected bait locations.
- The location of potential food supplies for rats or mice, including frequent spillage points for animal feeds or grain.



Even if you know there's a rodent problem to deal with, it's worth spending some time getting as full a picture as possible of its extent. Search the area for droppings, signs of rodent damage and rat burrows. Check any traps for dead victims and non-rodenticide monitoring bait for signs of recent visits.

On your site plan/sketch, write down what you found and where, then give yourself a pat on the back for doing the single most important part of a control programme. Along with this master plan, you are also under a legal obligation to do an environmental risk assessment (ERA)

This is made much simpler than you might think using a standard format drawn up by CRRU and available to download* as a

writeable PDF file that you can print and save, along with an advisory module** that you can follow ', (*links on p2).

Scan this to enter the prize draw
or visit: thinkwildlife.org/prize.
Closing date: Midnight, Thu 31 March 2022

It is also good evidence for farm assurance or professional pest control register purposes.
*thinkwildlife.org/download/environmental-risk-assessment-form/?wpdmdl=17667

**thinkwildlife.org/download/environmental-risk-assessments-crru-cpd-resource-july-2018/?wpdmdl=17608

Finally a word about teamwork, particularly for farmers: Please don't take this on solo. Discuss it with your workforce and family members and delegate some of what needs to be done among them. Whether covering farms, shoots or other business premises, successful rodent control is a forever-job ideally involving several people.

Part 2: Risk hierarchy – simplest and lowest risk first

Of all the possible things you can do to control pest rodents, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) pose the greatest risk of harming people, pets and non-target wildlife. The risk hierarchy described by the Code of Best Practice is simply a scale from zero to severe of control measures available. And the Code's legal status means that ignoring it would be a breach of rodenticide stewardship and farm assurance conditions.

Essentially, employing the risk hierarchy means using the least severe methods consistent with a reasonable expectation of achieving the rodent control required. At the lower end of the hierarchy, it's not exactly difficult to envisage what's on offer, long before spending good money on rodenticides.

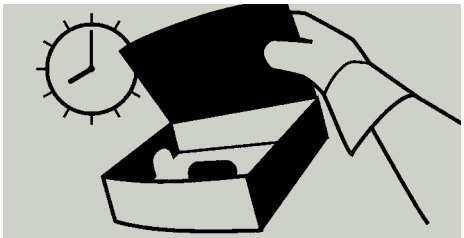
A golden rule is that lasting control can only be achieved by minimising the rodent carrying capacity of the site. Basically, this involves denying rats or mice a place to nest, access to food and water, and entry routes into your buildings. These may seem obvious, but a survey by CRRU found only 60% of farmers, for example, recognised that rodent control is easier, lower cost and less problematic on a tidy farmstead. Arithmetically and alarmingly, this means about 40% don't get this.

Asked to rate their own site's tidiness, most awarded themselves a mediocre five, six or seven out of ten. And while eight-in-ten farmers used poison baits, lower severity control measures in the risk hierarchy such as denying access to food (58%), traps (40%), rat-proofing for buildings (31%), terriers and shooting (31% each) were much less commonplace.

Compared with the risk hierarchy, these choices are clearly upside down. Indeed, such widespread use of rodenticide as a first step rather than last resort may go some way to explaining why, several years into the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime, nearly 90% of barn owls continue being found to carry rodenticide contamination. Surely at some point, the relevant authority is going to intervene with additional controls that will limit farmers' and gamekeepers' DIY options.

To recap, where feasible employ low severity non-rodenticide methods to achieve control… more detail in Part 3.

Only when necessary, and based on your surveillance, site plan and risk assessment, place rodenticide according to the label and manufacturer's instructions…more detail in Part 4.



Check rodenticide labels for new details of approved bait stations

Part 3: Non-poison – much to gain, few disadvantages

Traps, terriers and shooting are legitimate under the Code of Best Practice as long as employed responsibly. Unless poison baits are being used simultaneously – which in most situations doesn't make much sense – all three avoid the risk of rodenticide exposure to people, pets and non-target wildlife.

In addition to being low cost, a valuable benefit can arise from the personal involvement of people working on the site, whether farm or shoot or other business premises. It creates an up to date awareness and unique insight to the scale and distribution of a site's rodent problem. Once control is achieved, it's also likely that those involved are more attuned to and attentive for early warning signs that re-invasion might be taking place.

With all three methods that follow, pre-control monitoring, a site plan, and environmental risk assessment, should all be done and will help maximise the impact.

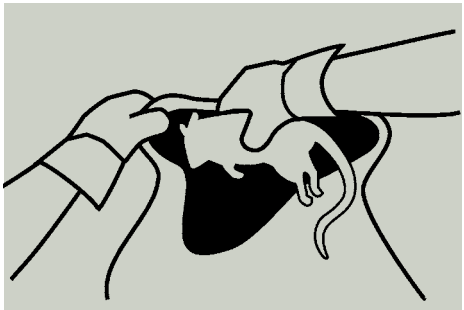
Trapping: Whether using kill-traps or live-capture, this poses risk to non-target wildlife, so an environmental risk assessment is called for (covered in Part 1). There are three important requirements for traps: 1) Shielding to prevent access by non-targets by setting in a natural or artificial tunnel or other covered position; 2) daily checking and disposal of victims; and 3) they must not be left baited and set permanently.

Terriers: Controlling rats with dogs is legal in the UK under the Hunting Act (2004) and near-instant death makes it one of the most humane methods. Whether using your own terriers or inviting known and trusted owners to join a clearance team, a necessary statement of the obvious is to be sure that the site has zero rodenticide presence on the day.

Shooting: The law about air rifle ownership depends on region of the UK, according to a BPCA webinar.

- "In Scotland and Northern Ireland, a licence from the region's police is required.
- "In England and Wales for over-18s, no licence is needed for airguns rated up to 12 ft-lb capacity.
- "Users have a duty of care to be trained and competent, maintain guns in good working order, and for safe use in general.
- "For self-protection, wear ricochet glasses rated mechanical strength F (be aware that a lower spec S rating offers less protection).
- "For training and practice, competition and friendships, consider joining an airgun club.
- "Make sure no shooting takes place where there may be public access, such as rights of way, and follow all necessary rules about the safe use of airguns."

For all non-poison methods, it's crucial to know beforehand how you will dispose of the resulting victims. According to the BPCA website, burial is allowed on farms as long as it's done in a way that no water course could be contaminated.



To prevent scavengers (e.g. foxes, badgers) digging up the carcases, burial needs to be deep enough (at least one metre) with compacted back-fill.

Please visit the PCN website to view the remainder of this CRRU newsletter

Pest control company scoops award for work during Covid-19 pandemic

London Network for Pest Solutions (LNPS) is celebrating after winning the 'Covid Response & Resilience' award at the recent Newham Business Awards.

The category recognises businesses that have adapted and responded well to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the award, LNPS Managing Director Paul Cooper said: "To be recognised for our work during the pandemic means a lot to the business and particularly to our technical and field staff.

"They battled away, day in and day out, juggling normal pest control work and evening sanitisation work, never letting customers down and, in stark contrast to so many other businesses, provided the same standard of work and commitment as they did pre-pandemic.

"It has been hard, but this award, for us, recognises all of the different aspects of the way we shifted in our approach to doing business such as offering free pest control to food establishments, sanitising community food hubs and care homes, changing our working patterns, increasing PPE use, etc.

"This award will forever be a reminder that our commitment meant something."

Because of the nature of the pandemic and the sharing of best practice, other Local Authorities quickly became aware of the work being carried by LNPS and the company was approached by a number of other hubs across London and Essex.

In summary, during Covid-19, LNPS:

- Started a sanitisation service, supporting sheltered housing and food hubs
- Introduced a "15 for 12" offer (pay for a 12-month contract, get the first three months free), to help get businesses up and running again
- Immediate price freeze for all customers
- Gave Toolbox talks/customer training to help care homes stay Covid-free
- Never missed a single request for service to domestic customers.

The Newham Business Awards are now in their fifth year. Organised by the Newham Chamber of Commerce, they focus attention on the amazing work being done by businesses in Newham and East London.

The winners were announced at a special gala awards dinner at The Old Town Hall, Stratford.

Rentokil to buy TERMINIX in $6.7bn deal

Rentokil is to acquire Terminix and the companies have agreed to a deal that values Terminix's equity at $6.7 billion (£5.07bn), or $55 (£41.61) per share, a premium of 47% on Monday's closing price.

Terminix chief executive Brett Ponton said: "This is an exciting next step that significantly advances Terminix's journey towards becoming a global leader in pest management.:

Rentokil will pay around $1.3bn (£980,000) in cash to Terminix shareholders and the rest in shares, the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

Rentokil chief executive Andy Ransom added: "These are two highly complementary businesses with a similar operational playbook.

"We will open our first innovation centre in the US and provide our industry-leading innovations and digital technologies to a far larger customer base."

The companies expect the transaction to close in the second half of 2022. In line with Rentokil's undertakings to the Competition & Markets Authority, Terminix will dispose of its UK business prior to completion of the transaction.

Following news from Terminix Global, which announced its plans to merge with Rentokil Initial on a global basis, Terminix UK said it's business as usual for the Gloucestershire-based business.

Terminix UK will not form part of this merger and instead will operate as a leading national pest control business in the UK, whilst serving our customers, caring for their premises and the environment.

James Gilding, managing director of Terminix UK, told press: "It's business as usual for TUK as we look to continue our growth trajectory and maintain our focus on rolling out various exciting improvements to make #TerminixUK a truly great place to work for our valued colleagues.

"I remain very positive about the future of our business in the UK."

A reminder to consult 2022 general licences for bird management

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This is a reminder, for those involved in professional bird management, to ensure you have the latest copies of general licences before undertaking any lethal control of listed bird species. In fact, it's not just about having the latest copies, it's about following the licence requirements fully.

England

In England, the relevant general licences are available here https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/general-licences-for-wildlife-management

The general licences regarding bird management have been reissued for 2022, with a key change being that they are valid for two years rather than the more familiar lifespan of one year.

The licence most relevant to many pest controllers is the GL41 Wild birds: licence to kill or take for public health or safety. As a land owner, occupier or authorised person, use this general licence to kill or take certain wild birds to preserve public health or safety. Species listed are Canada goose, *Branta canadensis*, Feral pigeon *Columba livia*, Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, Monk parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*.

Also note the following:

Wild birds: licence to kill or take to prevent serious damage (GL42)

Wild birds: licence to kill or take for conservation purposes (GL40)

Scotland

2022 bird general licences for Scotland are available here https://www.nature.scot/doc/general-licences-birds-2022

They are valid from 1 January to 31 December 2022.

Key licences are:

GL01/2022 - To kill or take certain birds for the conservation of wild birds

GL02/2022 - To kill or take certain birds for the prevention of serious damage

GL03/2022 - To kill or take certain birds for the preservation of public health, public safety and preventing the spread of disease

Wales

Welsh general licences update

Earlier this year Natural Resources Wales held a wild bird review, consulting on their proposals for the shooting and trapping of wild birds and the destruction of eggs and nests under general and specific licences in Wales.

Given the scale of the response to the consultation Natural Resources Wales have taken the decision to reissue the four general licences which authorise lethal control (GL001, GL002, GL004 and GL005) unchanged from 1 January to the 30 June 2022.

Key licences are:

GL002 – Preservation of public health

This general licence is for the purpose of preserving public health and preventing the spread of disease.

It authorises the killing or taking of feral pigeon. This includes damaging or destroying their nests and taking or destroying their eggs.

GL001 – Prevention of serious damage to crops and livestock

This general licence is for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables or fruit, or to prevent the spread of disease to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables or fruit.

It authorises the killing or taking of Canada goose, carrion crow, jackdaw, feral pigeon, magpie and wood pigeon. This includes damaging or destroying their nests and taking or destroying their eggs.

Northern Ireland

DAERA are currently actively considering the Northern Ireland general licences process.

A previous public consultation on this matter was withdrawn on 29 July 2021 due to a technical error, but it is anticipated that a more comprehensive consultation will launch in early 2022.

While this consultation is being finalised, DAERA have issued amended, interim licences.

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/wildlife-licensing

Kill or take certain birds, including the taking, damaging or destruction of their eggs, or the disturbance of such a bird or the young of such a bird for the purpose of preserving public health or public safety

- to kill or take certain birds TPG1

Kill or take certain birds, including the taking, damaging or destruction of their eggs, or the disturbance of such a bird or the young of such a bird for the purpose of preventing the spread of disease and preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber and fisheries

- to kill or take certain birds TPG2

Kill or take certain birds, including the taking, damaging or destruction of their eggs, or the disturbance of such a bird or the young of such a bird for the purpose of conserving wild birds

- to kill or take certain birds TPG3

Rodent control and wild bird control (proofing) highlighted as biosecurity measures in avian flu outbreaks

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The Defra document 'Biosecurity and preventing welfare impacts in poultry and captive birds. Advice for all captive bird and poultry keepers (including game birds, waterfowl, and pet birds), updated 24th November 2021, highlights the importance of rodent control and wild bird proofing in avian flu outbreaks. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036185/biosecurity-poultry-guide.pdf

There have been 78 confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in the UK.

Advice regarding rodent control is as follows:

- Keep wild birds, dogs, cats, rodents and other livestock out of poultry buildings and feed stores. These can carry infection or infective material onto your farm and spread disease to your flock.
- Have an effective rodent and pest control system in place. Be vigilant for evidence of vermin. Monitor vermin activity by baiting and trapping. Feed silos and containers must be regularly cleaned, maintained and properly sealed, to prevent vermin and wild birds accessing and contaminating feed.
- At depopulation at the end of a production cycle (for example at the end of lay for laying hens), thoroughly clean the building and all equipment, including ducting, drains and fans. Remove all surplus feed, dead birds and litter. Disinfect the premises and all equipment and carry out rodent and other pest control. You should also clean and disinfect cleaning equipment and protective clothing.
- You must consider what measures may be appropriate and practical to protect your birds from contact with wild birds, such as feeding and watering birds indoors or under protection from wild birds and rodents (see the advice on protecting your birds from wild birds later in this guidance). Talk to your private veterinarian for further advice.

To reduce the risk of your birds becoming infected with Avian Influenza, you should take steps to avoid your birds coming in to contact with wild birds, or their faeces/body fluids:

- You should undertake vermin (rats and mice) control to reduce their contact with feed and water for pigeons.

Protecting your birds from wild birds

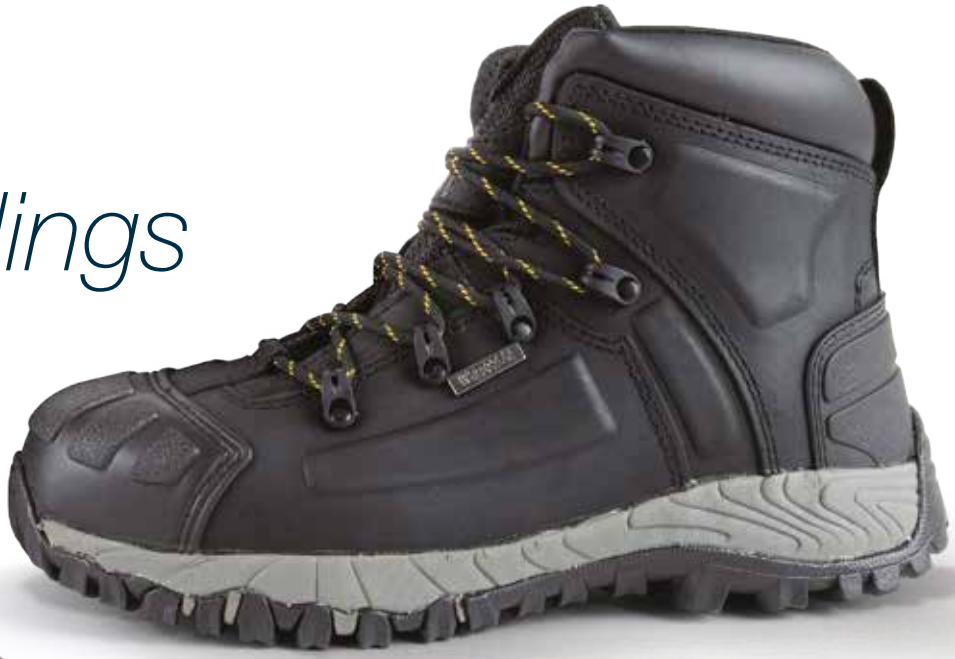
One way by which notifiable avian disease may spread to poultry is through contact with infected wild birds. Contact may be direct (through mingling), or indirect (through bird secretions, faeces, feathers, rodents etc., contaminating anything that may then come into contact with poultry such as feed, water, utensils clothing or vermin).

Flooding at your premises or fields nearby can attract wild birds, thereby increasing the risk of notifiable avian disease. Flood water can be contaminated (with wild bird infectious material), which can get into poultry houses or range areas. Make sure poultry houses or sheds on your premises are well maintained to prevent wild birds from nesting or roosting in them. It is important that you regularly inspect the building(s) used to house your poultry (including game birds and pet birds) for any structural damage (such as leaks e.g. roofs, holes, blocked drains or downpipes) and repair any defects without undue delay.

Notifiable avian disease can be introduced into poorly maintained poultry houses, via wild birds, rats or mice that could mechanically carry virus into the house, or ingress of contaminated water. It is your responsibility to make sure your birds are protected from disease causing agents. Biosecurity is cumulative, so the more you do, the better protected your birds will be. Where an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone or other disease control zone such as a Protection Zone, Surveillance Zone or Restricted Zone has been declared, the declaration will state the mandatory biosecurity and wild bird separation measures that will apply. You must follow the disease control measures and any published guidance in force at the time.

Go where
the rats go

In & around
buildings



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for today's technician

A view on rodent glue boards

John Hope, technical manager of the National Pest Technician's Association (NPTA) takes a view on rodent glue boards.

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As Technical Manager of the NPTA, a pest controller, and someone who cares passionately about the critical part that the industry plays in protecting public health, I have significant concerns over the proposed restrictions currently going through the English Parliament regarding glue boards.

The Government has now published a draft bill for any future use of glue boards (or traps as they call them) and this has done nothing to allay my concerns. No doubt, when the decision was announced on 8th November 2021, that Professionals would still have access to glue boards, and that they were to be banned for amateur use, many Pest Control Professionals breathed a collective sigh of relief. However, as I stated at Pest Tech, "the devil is in the detail" and perhaps our celebrations were a tad premature.

I just can't help feeling that the rights of rodents are being placed above the need to protect Public Health. Just to clarify, I am not suggesting in any way that animal welfare is not an important and worthwhile subject. I personally have significant personal concerns about animal welfare in many sectors of today's society. However, there is a significant difference between the need to protect Public Health and the need to protect animal welfare. We know without doubt that rodents have the ability to be vectors for a whole range of pathogens, so I am therefore perplexed why the Government feels the need to put the welfare of rodents over the need to protect human health and wellbeing.

The bill has now passed its second reading in Westminster and, although it has a long way to go before it is included on the statute books, there is no doubt we are facing a world where glue boards will potentially become difficult to use, and my fear is a ban in all but name.

So let me explain. I will refer to the draft bill and a comment made by Cherilyn Mackroy MP when setting out the Governments agenda in Parliament on 19th November 2021. Highlighting that the Government plans to 'ban the use of glue traps in all but the most exceptional circumstances'.

The bill sets out that "a person commits an offence by anyone who sets a glue trap in England for the purpose of catching a rodent or sets a glue trap in England in a manner which gives rise to a risk that a rodent will become caught". There are some exclusions including Professional Pest Controllers, and it will prevent the general public from using them. But, before we get complacent and think 'all is well' there is a licensing arrangement set out.

The draft bill then goes on to state that the secretary may (note the wording), grant a license for the purpose of preserving Public Health or Public Safety but must be satisfied that certain criteria have been satisfied and, in particular, that there is no other satisfactory solutions available. Whilst it could be argued that this has always been included in the glue board Code of Best Practice, the bill fails to set out that they can only be applied for in exceptional circumstances or where there is an imminent risk to Public Health and Safety. Did I mention they reserve the right to charge you for an application (public health a priority?)!

Whilst licenses may be available, the bill is very scant on detail. For example, how quickly the licenses will be issued and let's face it, in many circumstances, time is of the essence. It also does not state how licenses will be issued, i.e., on a case-by-case basis or for a set period to cover the Pest Controller for a specific time period. However, given that the term 'that there is no other satisfactory solutions available' I can only surmise that license applications will only be issued for individual sites or a specific set of circumstances. So perhaps, the early collective sigh of relief was misplaced?

As if all of this wasn't bad enough, the bill also appears to place an obligation on surveyors or other Pest Control companies, should they come across glue boards that have been deployed by someone else and states:

A person commits an offence if the person finds a glue trap in England that has been set in a manner which gives rise to a risk that a rodent will become caught in the glue trap, and without reasonable excuse, fails to ensure that the glue trap no longer gives rise to such a risk.

Therefore, it is not just glue boards that you lay that you are responsible for, it is any that you may find during the course of your daily activities.

So now we turn to any potential sentencing. Should you be found guilty of an offence under this legislation you can be sentenced to a period of 51 weeks imprisonment, a fine

(unspecified at present) or both. There is also a corporate liability attached to the bill, in which Directors of a Company can also be prosecuted if they had knowledge of glue boards being used without or outside of the scope of a license.

We must also consider how this will be enforced. The bill sets out that an authorised inspector (it is not yet detailed who this enforcement body will be) can enter any premises (dwellings excluded) to verify any statement, or representation made, or document or information provided, by the Pest Controller, in connection with an application for the grant, or modification of a glue trap licence, or ascertaining whether any condition to which a glue trap licence is subject, has been complied with. Is the heralding of a licensing scheme for pest controllers still sounding good to you, I'm not sure it does to me!

Of course, all of this does not mean that glue boards cannot be used, and at least it isn't an outright ban but, given that there appears to be a lot of barriers in the way, and that the penalties are so severe, I suspect is a ban by any other name. What really concerns me is that there is only one loser in this – Public Health! I am extremely concerned that the rights of rodents are being placed above the rights of people to live safely.

Many of us will be aware of the difficulties associated with controlling rodents particularly given the apparent rise in behavioural resistance and cereal intolerance amongst house mice and for me at least, this is just one more step towards (or backwards) a one man or woman and their dog, until of course killing rodents with dogs is deemed too cruel.

This is only a brief snapshot of what is potentially forthcoming and, similar to the debate in the House of Commons on 19th November 2021, demonstrates a lack of understanding in Government regarding the importance of protecting Public Health. To back this up, and assuming you are not aware of the contents of the debate, Cherilyn Mackroy MP, who presented the bill in the absence of Jane Stevenson MP described glue boards as 'primitive and barbaric'. In my view a clear message on the Government's intentions and more worryingly, Ms. Mackroy stated:

'However, when the problem has already been identified and got out of hand, people can consider live capture and release, which is much more humane.'

Now perhaps you can see why I am so concerned about the Governments agenda on this issue and a complete lack of understanding when it comes to rodent behaviour.

However, before we get carried away with the negatives of what is proposed in this draft bill, we must remember that this is only the opening gambit. The industry can be assured that we will be in contact with Government and the appropriate bodies to attempt to drive some common sense into these proposals. In the meantime, all we can ask is that anyone currently using glue boards attend training courses like the one currently available through Killgerm and use these products responsibly.

I will leave you with what I consider to be the only voice of reason during the debate made by Sir Christopher Chode MP:

Why are we bringing forward legislation that is effectively designed to try to make people think of rats as friends rather than enemies? They are enemies to our public health… I hope we can have stronger confirmation from the Government that we are going to eliminate rats before we start dealing with eliminating the means by which we may be able to control rats. As I said at the beginning, rats and rodents are dangerous to public health, and we ignore that at our peril.

Hear hear to that!

If you want to view the complete draft document, please visit: Glue Traps (Offences) Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament

A perspective on aluminium phosphide for rabbits, rats and moles

Pest Control News hears from Martin Rose-King of Bounty Pest Control, an experienced and respected pest controller and trainer, regarding aluminium phosphide for vertebrate control.

You could be forgiven for wondering whether the use of aluminium phosphide for rabbits, rats and moles is really worth the hassle. Having been available for vertebrate control since the 1980's, recent years have seen the introduction of gas monitors, exclusion zones, product label changes and further training requirements.

You may also be thinking, especially in the current climate where chemicals are being shunned by many governments, campaigners and customers, that considering using a part 1 poison is an unnecessary option…but would you be right?

With this in mind, let us look a little deeper shall we, then you can make your own decision! Just because something might be a little more difficult to do, does not meant it isn't worthwhile…

Aluminium phosphide for controlling rabbits, rats and moles comes to us as users in the form of tablets in a flask. Talunex and Phostoxin are the brand names we are familiar with, both having the same active ingredient with each product needing a different applicator due to the size of the tablet.

Each tablet evolves the highly toxic phosphine gas, liberated when the tablet contacts moisture. This makes the product very efficient when placed in burrows under the right conditions.

What is the point of using a highly toxic gas when we have rodenticides and traps you may ask? Well, you may be surprised to know that in certain environments aluminium phosphide may be a safer alternative, for non-target species, to anticoagulant rodenticides. Aluminium phosphide will also bring about very rapid control, giving a clear advantage over traps too.

Let us take a farm for example. Imagine that the farm has a bird of prey, close by, that feeds regularly from the rat population in an embankment. If there are rats in an embankment, do we need to bother dealing with the issue I hear you say? In this case, yes, because the rats in the embankment are travelling the 15-metre distance from the embankment to the recently harvested crop and spoiling the produce. The farmer is desperate to get the issue under control. This is because the harvest is likely to become rejected due to contamination. This is where our trained and qualified professional pest technician saves the day! You see, in this scenario aluminium phosphide is the perfect solution. Used correctly, in this scenario, aluminium phosphide poses low risks to the raptor population. It will bring the rat population under control rapidly, so the farmer can rest easy knowing the harvest can be sold for the best price.

A recent example where we have used aluminium phosphide is in a local woodland visitor attraction. Norway rats had established a significant foothold in an embankment which was out of site of the general public and not visited frequently by on site staff. We estimated that the rat population had been growing for up to six months, to the point where young adult rats were starting to forage around waste bins and being noticed by visitors to the site near to one of the buildings. After surveying we discovered the root cause of the issue was the rat population in the embankment which was approximately 30 metres away.

We set to undertaking our risk and Environmental Risk Assessments (ERA). After conducting the ERA we decided that, given the woodland location, there will without doubt be predatory non-target species in the vicinity. The non-target species pretty much ruled out the use of second generation anticoagulants in this case. That said, we needed to get on top of the problem quickly. Cue aluminium phosphide. Our plan was to deploy a trapping program around the building and waste bins, simultaneously treating the embankment with aluminium phosphide. It worked a treat. We were surprised at how effective the product was on the overall rat population. Two treatment visits, 48 hours apart dealt with the population in the embankment and a further two visits to the traps by the buildings and our job was done. A very happy customer and a very successful outcome.

What about rabbits then, surely this product can't give the same results for rabbits too? Well, the answer is a firm yes, in the right conditions and when used properly. Aside from the product label restrictions there are the obvious hurdles such as 'are the rabbits travelling to the site' or 'are there warrens on site'. In the latter situation aluminium phosphide is our 'go to' product. In the same way we dealt with rats in the embankment, treating a warren can give equally successful and satisfying results. In fact, for our company, it's fair to say we use aluminium phosphide for rabbits more than we do for rats and moles.

Of course, it's not always that simple and the product is highly toxic. This is where the importance of training is highlighted. Without one of the industry approved qualifications this product cannot be purchased or used. As a part 1 poison there are a great deal of requirements that need to be satisfied beforehand, beginning with training. During training you will learn about the product and how to store, transport and use it safely. In recent years post-treatment monitoring has been introduced and for many, due to the cost of the monitoring devices and the need to return to site to monitor levels of phosphine down to 0.01ppm has been off-putting. That said, in the right scenario this product has a clear advantage.

toxic method (COSHH/risk assessment).

Other stringent requirements are also applied to ensure the safe use of these products including restrictions on how close to buildings they can be used, the use of special application equipment and personal protective equipment, prevailing weather conditions, the training and competence of users and disposal of used containers (see Further Reading: The RAMPS UK Code of Good Practice. Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Standards in the UK).' https://www.ramps-uk.org/

Training – users require a 'Level 2 Award in the safe use of aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control' qualification and training providers can be found via the websites of the following Awarding Organisations:

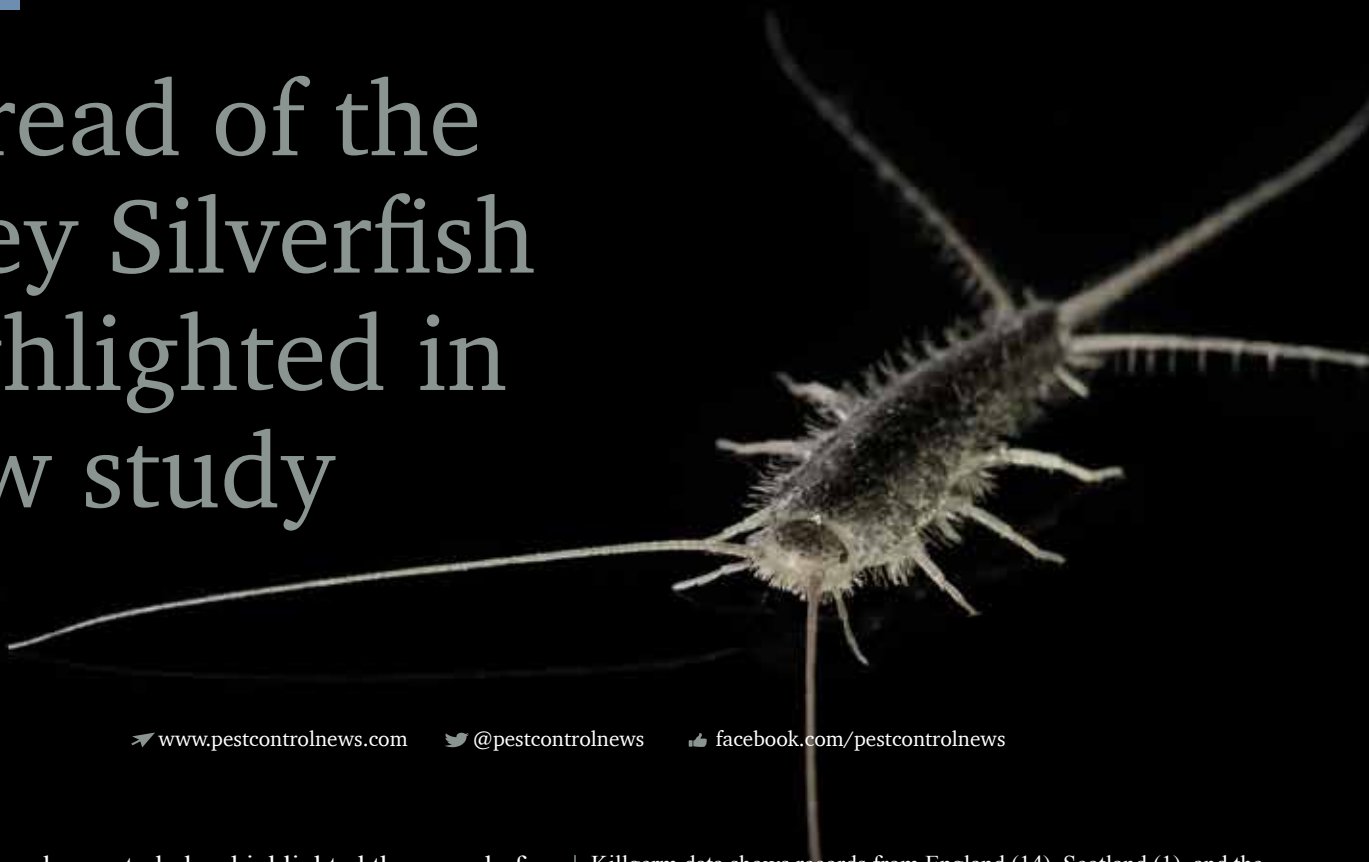
https://www.lantra.co.uk/course/level-2-award-safe-use-aluminium-phosphide-vertebrate-pest-control

https://www.nptc.org.uk/qualificationschemedetail.aspx?id=496

https://www.rsph.org.uk/qualification/level-2-award-in-using-aluminium-phosphide-safely-for-the-management-of-vertebrate-pests.html

Gas monitors – information available from Draeger https://www.draeger.com/en_uk/Home

Spread of the Grey Silverfish highlighted in new study



A brand new study has highlighted the spread of grey silverfish, *Ctenolepisma longicaudatum*, in the UK and Europe.

The article was published in late 2021, in the scientific journal 'Insects', featuring authors from National Reference Laboratory of Vector Control (Czech Republic), Department of Zoology and Fisheries - Czech University of Life Sciences (Czech Republic), Killgerm Chemicals Ltd (United Kingdom) and Department of Food, Environmental and Nutritional Sciences (DeFENS) - University of Milan.

There will be an 'ID Corner' relating to silverfish in our next issue. Of course, the first thing to do with any insect is to be sure of the identification. In fact, the authors of the paper report that misidentification and lack of familiarity regarding the grey silverfish could be a contributing factor in its spread. Correct ID really makes a difference with this species, as control measures for the grey silverfish *C. longicaudatum* are different vs the common silverfish *Lepisma saccharina*.

What are the new findings – is this species turning up in new places?

Yes indeed. The title of the article, by Kulma *et al*., gives us a clue. '*Ctenolepisma longicaudatum* Escherich (1905) Became a Common Pest in Europe: Case Studies from Czechia and the United Kingdom.'

Looking at the UK and Ireland, there is a comprehensive list of areas where grey silverfish have been confirmed. It's interesting to know that the majority of these records were provided by entomologists Jonathan Binge and Dr Matthew Davies of Killgerm Chemicals Ltd, via their insect identification service. Some of the other UK records were provided by Dr Federica Boiocchi, as part of her collaborative PhD research with Aston University and Killgerm Chemicals, before her move to the University of Milan. Dr Boiocchi's 'citizen science' approach to insect sampling in the UK yielded interesting results regarding grey silverfish presence and also their carriage of bacteria – more on that later.

The first UK record of grey silverfish was from a domestic home in 2014 in Reading (Goddard *et al*., 2016).

Killgerm data shows records from England (14), Scotland (1), and the Republic of Ireland (2). This was data from October 2017 to January 2021. The Killgerm and Aston University citizen science research revealed 96 individuals of *C. longicaudatum* found in six out of 20 households that were surveyed. This was during the year of collection from October 2018 to November 2019.

The highly useful whatseatingyourcollection.com website and National Biodiversity Network also provided UK and Ireland data.

There were 16 reports of grey silverfish from London. Other locations were Quainton, Southampton, Doncaster, Leeds, Birmingham, Gloucester, Portsmouth, Ashford, Cheltenham, Manchester, Chelmsford, Hartley, Ipswich, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Taunton, Totnes, Brighton, Brentford, Peterborough, Chiswick, Milton Keynes and Canterbury.

Scotland had one record from a domestic premises in Aberdeen, February 2019. This is the first record of *C. longicaudatum* from Scotland. Interestingly, it was suspected to have been introduced from Norway, via international travel by the resident (G. MacKay., pers. comm. 2021), according to discussions with the pest control operator.

Northern Ireland records were from Antrim and Templepatrick.

Republic of Ireland records were from Cork, Galway, Ballina and Balbriggan.

What types of UK and Ireland premises are grey silverfish being found in?

Quite the variety! Here is a list of premises; museums, galleries, archives, student accommodation, domestic homes, flats, apartments, stores, offices, medical centre, shopping centre, garden centre, warehouses.

Considering the museum report from south-east London, the pest control operator described *C. longicaudatum* active around historical papers/ books, paper goods, and clothing. However, no damage to these items was reported.

Is the grey silverfish significant as a pest?

Allergens

The production of allergens by insects isn't talked about particularly often. Silverfish can be a source of inhalant allergens. Tropomysin has been identified as an inhalant allergen from common silverfish *Lepisma saccarhina* and it is also noted in house dust mites, cockroaches and crustaceans (e.g. shellfish). A typical symptom can be allergic rhinitis (runny nose, sneezing).

Bacteria

Dr Federica Boiocchi's work, with Aston University and Killgerm Chemicals Ltd, reported opportunistic bacteria being associated with grey silverfish. Bacteria isolated from grey silverfish were *Staphylococcus, Acinetobacter, Bacillus* and *Kocuria* spp. These were isolated from both the exoskeleton and internal structures of grey silverfish. As grey silverfish are found often in domestic homes, there could be some risk to public health via contamination with opportunistic bacteria. It is possible that silverfish may disperse bacteria, via mechanical transmission, in such domestic settings, with risks expected to be higher for immunocompromised persons. There is also some potential for contamination of food, as grey silverfish are reported in numbers near to food sources.

Damage

While not a typical 'damage' description, grey silverfish activity can cause stress and nuisance to people working or living in buildings harbouring this species. A more traditional view of damage is the economic damage caused by pests. Grey silverfish can be seen as economic pests as they feed on paper, book bindings, books, wallpaper, papier-mâché, photos and plant-based materials such as cellulose and starch. Furthermore, damage to fabrics and cotton has been reported. This is especially important in museums and galleries featuring sensitive items. The impact of silverfish damage on art paintings, books, and documents could be significant and the costs of damage very high.

How are they spreading?

The theory of grey silverfish spreading via trade / movement of cardboard boxes and industrial, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities has been described in previous studies. This is because such sites have been described as a main habitat of grey silverfish. This is now supported further by more records of grey silverfish in these sites and this spans in several regions throughout the UK and Czech republic. A shift northwards, of grey silverfish distribution, could be explained by a suitable indoor climate that allows them to thrive due to central heating and insulation in homes.

What is the control advice?

Pest Control News issue 123 featured a special piece on grey silverfish control and we recommend reading this https://www.pestcontrolnews.com/pcn-123/ The control article covers inspection, monitoring, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), cleaning, environmental management, insecticide baits, insecticide sprays, heat / cold treatments and desiccant powders. It notes that reducing humidity is meant more for *Lepisma saccharina* rather than *C. longicaudatum*.

Where can I learn more about silverfish?

Join us for an 'ID corner' article in our next issue, where we will also have a piece on another species of silverfish – the so-called 'ghost silverfish' *Ctenolepisma calvum*.

A few closing points are that grey silverfish are likely to be under-reported due to unfamiliarity with their identification, conditions in a variety of premises are conducive to their proliferation and spread, and early identification plus appropriate control measures (they are silverfish monitors and specific baits) are important in managing this species.

Grey Silverfish, *Ctenolepisma longicaudatum* at a domestic property in August 2022

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Pest Control News hears from technical manager, Melvin Knapp, regarding his experience of encountering *Ctenolepisma longicaudatum* in a UK domestic premises. Melvin put his 'Associate Certified Entomologist International' status to great use regarding this insect problem.

I was contacted by an environmental health officer in August 2021 regarding a customer who was experiencing problems with silverfish. The property did not appear to have any significant issues with damp and silverfish sightings had been noted throughout. Fortunately, the Environmental Health Practitioner (EHP) had attended a meeting where I had presented on the grey silverfish, *Ctenolepisma longicaudatum*. This meant the EHP was aware of the need to look out for silverfish with unusual characteristics. Photographs were sent and they did indeed show the long caudal filaments, setae along their sides and a darker appearance when compared to the common silverfish, *Lepisma saccharina*.

Upon inspection of the property, I was met by a very distressed lady who had gone to extreme lengths to try to keep these insects out of her belongings. This included storing all of her personal clothing in vacuum sealed bags. The silverfish were indeed present in both nymphal and adult stages throughout the property. Samples were taken and sent to our entomologist for confirmation of the species.

At the time of my visit, I found grey silverfish within mugs in the kitchen cupboards and even the broom. The broom was frequently used to sweep up silverfish. They were also in the main bedroom behind the cupboards. The area of highest activity seemed to surround the main reception hallway which had a parquet floor. Many of the wooden tiles of this parquet floor were loose and provided favourable harbourage to insects. Silverfish can digest carbohydrates and cellulose both of which can be found in some adhesives (cellulose in the form of polysaccharides). Perhaps the adhesive beneath the parquet floor provided the ideal conditions for grey silverfish to thrive?

This was clearly a problem which was not going to be solved by dehumidification alone. An external pest control company was brought in to implement a monitoring and treatment programme using Silvercheck monitors, diatomaceous earth and Maxforce Platin (1.026% Clothianidin). Of course, recommendations to seal the loose parquet floor and other harbourages would also be key to the success of the treatment.

Pest Odyssey UK

By Suzanne Ryder (Natural History Museum)

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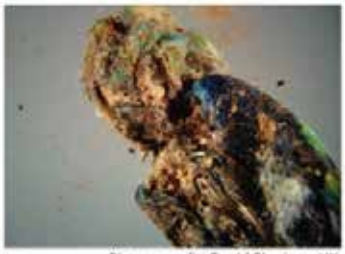
The Icon Pest Odyssey Network successfully delivered its third, international, decennial conference. Pest Odyssey 2021- The Next Generation

This fully virtual conference took place on the 20th - 22nd September 2021 and focused on changes and new developments in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) over the last ten years.

The Pest Odyssey UK group is a non-profit organisation, advocating for IPM within cultural heritage institutions. The group aims to provide a trusted platform to communicate, advise and promote best practise in Integrated Pest Management for cultural heritage. This multi-disciplinary group offers expertise in reducing pest risk thus protecting valuable collections. They advocate the use of IPM as an essential cost effective and sustainable tool to serve the cultural heritage industry, creating collaborative networks and sharing relevant information: http://

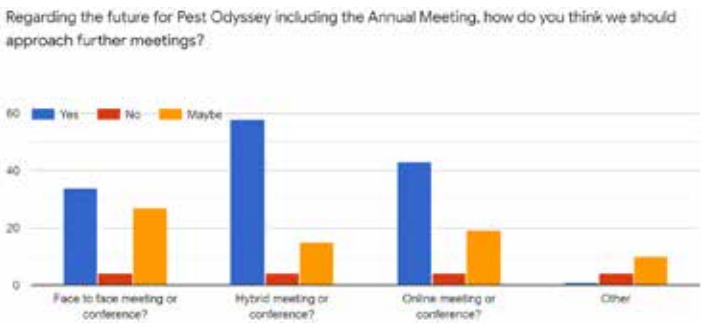
Picture credit: Mark Adams, Natural History Museum



Picture credit: David Pinniger, UK

www.pestodyssey.org

Accelevents was the platform chosen to support the conference. Accelevents is a powerful all-in-one virtual event platform, offering robust virtual event hosting features including live streaming, live chat and polling, virtual exhibitor booths, breakout sessions and more. The previous Pest Odyssey conferences have been in person hosted by the British Library and the British Museum. The conference in 2021 was due to be held at the Natural History Museum, London but as a consequence of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions the decision was taken to make this the first virtual Pest Odyssey conference. Although it was unfortunate that we were not able to meet in person, the virtual platform did allow us to guarantee a full and inspiring programme accessible to as many people as possible across the globe. The results from a short survey of the participants showed that the preference of the delegates for meetings going forward would be to provide a hybrid meeting so there is some face-to-face meeting with a virtual element allowing a wider global attendance.



The conference was both enjoyable and interesting, thirty-four papers and fourteen posters were presented and three workshops hosted. Three hundred and sixty delegates from thirty-two countries were in attendance.

Topics presented included remote monitoring, biological control methods for controlling insect pests, novel and collaborative approaches to maintain IPM programmes through a time of unprecedented difficulties that presented themselves due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The papers included reports of current research into pest behaviour, control and management as well as some very useful case studies from several cultural heritage sites.

In addition to the poster presentations and the papers, three workshops were offered which allowed more in-depth discussion. The workshops were focused around three relevant topics in IPM today:

- IPM training and resources – Led by Armando Mendez from the Natural History Museum, London
- International training – Led by Amy Crossman from Collections Care Consultancy
- Silverfish – Led by Alex Walker from the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford

The conference proceedings have been peer reviewed and will be published in February 2022. The previous conference proceedings, from the meetings in 2001 and 2011 are widely recognized as essential texts for pest management in heritage institutions. This new volume contains 46 contributions from across the world and we hope will prove to be another valuable resource in the pest manager's tool kit.

Integrated Pest Management for Collections

Editors Suzanne Ryder and Amy Crossman

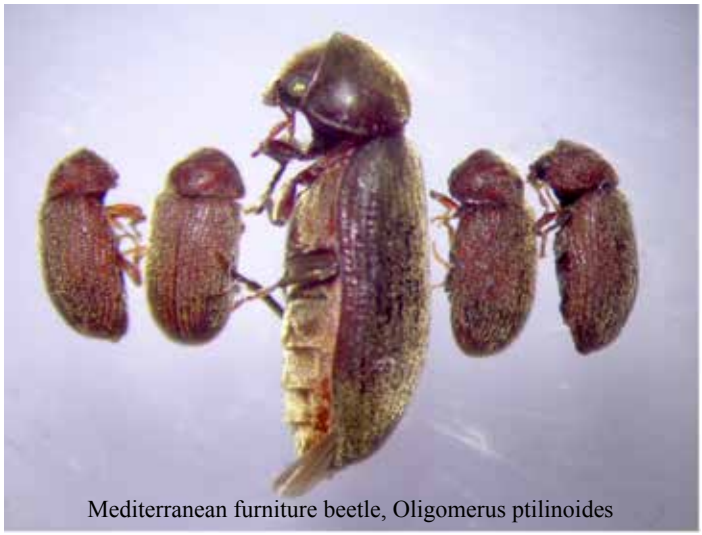
The initial regular cost of a hard copy edition of this book will be 45.00GBP when it is published on 8th February. Please note that the book will be available at the pre-publication price of 35.00GBP available online at:

https://archetype.co.uk/our-titles/integrated-pest-management-for-collections/?id=381

Pest Control News picked up on a presentation, by Killgerm Chemicals Ltd entomologists, covering the Mediterranean furniture beetle, *Oligomerus ptilinoides*. It was reported for the first time in domestic premises in the UK and the full report will feature in the aforementioned conference book of proceedings.

Here is a great image (courtesy of Killgerm entomologist Jonathan Binge) showing the larger *O. ptilinoides* vs biscuit beetles. Check the size – the Mediterranean furniture beetle can get up to 7.5mm in size, much larger than biscuits beetles as you can see. They can fly too.

It had been reported in 2015 in Hampton Court Palace but 2020 saw the first couple of cases outside of the museum / stately home sector. The 2020 cases of this woodboring pest were been reported in domestic premises. One case was reported from a loft in a domestic property in Kent. The other from holes in a wooden bedframe in a domestic property in Surrey.



Mediterranean furniture beetle, Oligomerus ptilinoides

Source

The beetle carries out its development by living within the dead wood of broad-leaved trees, particularly Limes (*Tilia* spp), Poplars (*Populus* spp) and Oaks (*Quercus* spp).

Signs

- Heaps of faecal bore-dust can be seen at the level of infested materials
- Dust pellets are peanut-shaped and circular in diameter.
- Produce exit holes of approximately 1.3–3 mm diameter
- Adults are good fliers. They are active from early spring through September, with increased emergence in July and August.
- Known to attack dry hardwoods
- Causes extensive damage to furniture
- Also damages statues, wooden works of art, easel painting stretchers and paints on wood
- Can damage roof timbers

Treatment

Oligomerus ptiniloides develops in timber which has a moisture content of between 11 and 16%, which includes hardwoods and well-seasoned worked softwoods. This insect has been known to infest timber used in pallets and storage crates, which is usually cheaper softwood timber.

Treatment of structural timber pest beetles involves the location of the infested timber, followed by removal and/or treatment with a suitable 'woodworm' fluid.

If the infestation is restricted to individual items of furniture, treatment within a thermal humidity chamber should be considered.

Plans to outlaw glue traps in Scotland

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Legislation to end the setting of 'glue traps' is to be brought forward by the Scottish Government in order to protect animal welfare.

The Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC) undertook a review of the use of glue traps and concluded that there are significant animal welfare issues related to their use, not only for rodents but also for non-target species such as wild birds.

Given this, the Scottish Government intends to implement a full ban and will seek stakeholders' views through a consultation, before forward bringing legislation during this parliamentary term.

Environment Minister Mairi McAllan said:

"We are committed to maintaining the highest welfare standards in Scotland for animals, including wildlife.

"We have carefully considered the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission's findings, alongside all other relevant evidence, I am pleased to announce in Parliament today that we intend to end the cruel practice of setting glue traps.

"The Commission's report is clear that there are significant animal welfare issues related to the use of glue traps, not only for rodents but also for other animals such as wild birds. Therefore, we will bring forward legislation to ban glue traps in this parliamentary term.

"Our intention is to ban the sale as well as the use of glue traps. However, there are implications arising from the Internal Market Act which can undermine decisions made by this Parliament, including in devolved climate and environmental policy. We intend to work through these issues."

Background

Glue traps are devices, most commonly but not exclusively, used by professional contractors in food premises, where the use of rodenticides are undesirable due to certain standards and the risk of contamination. The glue boards work by placing them along areas where rats and mice are likely to frequent; once the animal steps onto the board, it is then firmly stuck to it and is unable to free itself. Once an animal is captured the glue trap can be retrieved and the animal dispatched.

Glue traps can cause trapped rodents and non-target species to suffer unnecessarily, if not used by trained professionals in accordance with industry best practice.

There is currently no legislation governing the use of glue trap boards to catch rodents in Scotland. However, should an animal be caught in one, then they immediately fall under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 since the animal is now under the control of man. The operator therefore should humanely destroy any target species caught, or extricate and release, or if necessary, humanely destroy any non-target species accidently caught.

The government announced it would seek stakeholders' views through a consultation before bringing legislation during this parliamentary term.

The professional pest management sector is already representing the industry on this matter and will contribute to consultations.

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BPCA British Pest Control Association MEMBER

Certified Bed Bug Detection in Your Area

The not-for-profit Bed Bug Foundation (BBF) has launched a new website at www.bbf-k9.org specifically designed to make it easy for pest controllers to locate independently audited companies offering bed bug detection dog services. These detection services are available and can be added to a servicing company's contract with an existing client.

The companies listed on the site, bbf-k9.org, are spread across Western Europe, so include not only the UK, but also those listed in Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Sweden. In each country, full contact details are given.

Each of these audited companies have handlers and dog teams that have passed independent certification with the BBF within the past 12 months. The BBF works with a network of dog training schools across Western Europe, acting as a certifying authority for Bed Bug Detection Dog teams.

"Properly trained detection dogs are a valuable asset for all those companies servicing bed bug contracts as they can quickly detect low level bed bug infestations, all too easily missed with visual inspections," explains UK-based Dr Richard Naylor, BBF director. "They are able to locate bed bugs in inaccessible voids, like divan bed bases and behind headboards, where bed bugs are often found, but where visual inspection is often very difficult. A bed bug dog team can search many more rooms in a day than is possible by visual inspection alone."

Bed bug dogs are used in a variety of ways, for example to confirm treatment success and identify causes of bites. They are invaluable for identifying affected regions of hotels and apartment blocks where treatment should be focussed as well as providing routine screening of rooms in the hospitality sector, particularly if there is a persistent bed bug issue.

Why use BBF certified bed bug detection dog teams?

Like all industries, the detection dog industry benefits from regulation to ensure that high standards are maintained.

Compared to other fields of scent detection, bed bug searching is one of the most challenging. The scent picture is tiny, compared to that of explosives or drugs, and frequently hidden deep within inaccessible voids in beds and other furniture. Food scraps, toys and other species of insects are commonly encountered in the search environments which may distract or confuse bed bug dogs.

All fields of scent detection rely on the close relationship between the dog and handler. The handler must be able to recognise subtle changes in the dog's behaviour while guiding the dog through often unfamiliar search environments. The handler must be vigilant for any hazards that might cause injury to themselves or the dog, such as sharps or insecticidal dusts that could be inhaled, while ensuring that all the key bed bug locations are checked thoroughly.

These are just some of the skills that are put to the test in the BBF Bed Bug Detector Dog certification. Annual assessments encourage handlers to train regularly with their dogs to ensure high standards are maintained.

What is the BBF?

The Bed Bug Foundation (BBF) is a not-for-profit company that supports the pest management industry and general public in the correct identification and treatment of bed bugs.

Health and Safety checkup time!

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The beginning of the year and into the first quarter is a great time to renew risk assessments and site specific risk assessments. Take a bit of time to check through the labels and material safety data sheets for the products you have in use to review COSHH assessments. This in line with the appropriate regulations and the main legislation covering all of this, the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Doing the same at the start of each year really helps to set a good healthy start to a safe year. Of course, it's easy to remember year on year, new year – carry out your safety health check.

It's also well worth checking out equipment that might have been stored away for winter, wasp treatment kit, sprayers, and anything else. Replace the seals as per yearly maintenance prior to you needing it. This also helps equipment to last much longer when it is looked after and carefully maintained and of course save you money and hassle in the long run. Make this your time to carry out major maintenance, your regular checks become much simpler throughout the year.

Alongside normal equipment checks, ladder checks are also required by law. Each time you use ladders they should be given a pre-use check. Work at height regulations are currently unchanged and The Work at Height Regulations 2005 still apply. Make sure your work at height risk assessments are up to date.

Health and Safety culture statistics

Health and safety plays a huge role in our time at work, we have a fairly strong health and safety ethic in the pest control industry, but how does the UK stand compare with other countries globally? Looking at fatalities per 100,000 the UK sits high up at ninth in the world, with a figure of 0.83 per 100,000. There are countries with zero, such as Iceland. Looking at the varied industrial sectors we have in the UK, this figure is still good. There is of course room for improvement!

New PPE regs coming in 2022

Personal protective equipment (PPE) at work regulations are due to change from the 6 April 2022. This is an amendment to the previous regulations, (PPER 1992).

Personal Protective Equipment at Work (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (PPER 2022) will not change any duties or responsibilities (either employers or employees), but it does extend to limb workers. What are limb workers you ask? There are two types, limb (a) and limb (b). A limb worker simply mean that they have a contract of employment or any other contract on site (whether that be express or implied, oral or in written. A limb (b) worker may carry out casual or irregular work on one site or multiple sites or organisations. There are other prerequisites too. It's also worth remembering that this does not apply to those who are self-employed. The current and existing regulations cover limb (a) workers but not limb (b) workers, the new regulations do cover limb (b) workers.

Despite amended details, the basic points still apply. Following a hierarchical method of controls is essential, following the ever-effective principles of the ESTOP acronym,

E- Elimination (physical removal of the hazard)

S- Substitution (replace the hazard with something less hazardous but as effective)

T-Technical or engineering controls (isolation of equipment or distancing from the active chemical)

O-Operational (training, certificates, personnel, administrative controls)

P-PPE (personal protective equipment to provide protection to the worker)

As a last reminder, PPE should be provided, compatible, maintained, correctly stored, used properly.

In summary…

Ensuring that your ducks are in a row, health and safety wise, really helps to start the year positively. It is also much easier to maintain once the harder work has been completed and a checklist set up. This will also build towards traceability and due diligence. A little organisation and planning for health and safety helps jobs to run more smoothly, equipment to run better, overall adding to productivity and possibly even profits.

All references are available if requested by contacting technical@pestcontrolnews.com.

Health and Safety Health Check

	Date checked	Date for review	Comments
Site specific risk assessments			
Product labels			
MSDS checks			
COSHH			
Insurance certificates			
Governing body memberships			
CPD points scheme			
Respirator checks in order (plus monthly checks)			
Equipment checks in order (especially items that have been stored away for winter)			
PAT testing (equipment dependent)			
Store checks (major)			
Ladder checks (major)			
Training checks			
Records update			
Accident / incident record review			
COVID assessment updates			

New Products

UV/LED Torch

The Coast PX10 is a compact, professional use torch that can tap into a spectrum of light most other torches can't access. Using a total of six LED's; three of which craft a bright white flood beam, while the other three are UV LED's that can form into a precision spot of Ultra Violet light. The White or UV lamps are activated by an independent push button switch, saving you time cycling through the lighting modes.

- Operating Modes: Off / On
- Luminous Flux: 59 lumens (white LED's only)
- LED: 3 x white LED / 3 x ultra violet LED
- Wavelength: 395 nm UV-A (UV LED's only)
- Beam Range: 39 m
- Overall Length: 100 mm
- Weight: 86 grams (including batteries)
- Body Material: Aircraft grade aluminium
- Batteries Required: 3 x AAA (included)

Visit: www.killgerm.com

Carabiner Lanyard Tool

The Ergodyne Squids 3100F single carabiner tool lanyard is ideal for those who work at a height. By connecting your tools to the lanyard, you not only leave your hands free to concentrate on your job, but you also decrease the risk of damage or injury caused by falling equipment. With this lanyard, even if you do drop your tools, the furthest they can fall is 122cm, reducing hassle and enhancing safety.

- Tool lanyard crafted from 1680-denier polyester elastic blended webbing which extends from 96cm to 122cm
- Three-ply nylon stitching is extremely strong
- Lightweight, compact design reduces the chance of snags
- Anodised aluminium alloy carabiner
- Treaded loop-end works to grip the tools it is attached to
- Maximum capacity: 4.5kg
- Works to reduce injuries and damage caused by falling objects
- Shock-absorbing properties work to reduce the dynamic force on the body if drop occurs
- Ensures you can keep essentials close

Visit: www.killgerm.com

Harmonix Rodent Paste

Harmonix® Rodent Paste is an innovative rodenticide bait that offers several unique advantages for professional users. The product contains the active substance cholecalciferol which has a different mode of action to the predominantly used anticoagulant rodenticides. Cholecalciferol is effective against anticoagulant-resistant Norway rats and house mice. Areas and types of use for Harmonix® rodent paste are indoors and outdoors around buildings, open areas, waste dumps, burrow baiting, permanent baiting, tamper-resistant bait stations and in covered and protected baiting points. Also available is the non-toxic Harmonix® monitoring bait as a complementary monitoring option – matching the monitoring product to the rodenticide that may be subsequently employed.

Contains 0.075% cholecalciferol

Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

Visit: www.killgerm.com

New Products

Black Cat Nano

The Nano Black Cat is an easy to set, powerful break back trap. Made from plastic with a galvanised steel killing bar. We recommend that the trap is used in the AF Multis Trapping Station or the AF Amicus to reduce the risk of catching non target species. Its smaller size will also allow its use in safe restricted areas. For example, to the rear of kick-boards on kitchen units. Bait must be placed under the trigger hook before setting.

Dimensions when set H:145mm, L:130mm, W:85mm.

Visit: www.killgerm.com

Lureking Bedbug Monitor

The Lureking Bedbug Monitors offer protection before, during and after treatment. They can be slipped under or behind a bed, behind curtains or easily hidden in tight spaces around furniture. The Lureking Bedbug Monitors are a safe and non-toxic solution to monitoring bed bugs. Once assembled there is no need to add a lure as it is already included in the glue. The rough card exterior on the ramps enables the bed bugs to climb easily into the trap. The shiny card surface on the inside prevents them from escaping. The traps are highly effective for detecting low level populations before they get out of control. Checking and marking the monitors weekly can help with early detection to alert pest controllers of the need for treatment before the population increases. They are ideal for locating problem areas of harbourage, enhancing control efforts and alerting pest controllers to areas/rooms where they need to intensify treatments.

Visit: www.russellipm.com

Sakarat Brodifacoum Gel

An innovative bait using Lipogel technology to create a highly palatable formulation. Blended using vegetable fats to get a soft, creamy and stable product.

Contains 0.005% brodifacoum

Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

Visit: www.killgerm.com

Telesteps

The Telesteps Prime ladder is the first telescopic ladder with the triangular tube design making the ladder torsionally rigid and stronger than ever before. The ladder has been designed to be used at a 75 degree's leaning angle. The 80mm wide steps are positioned to be flat when the ladder is leaning against the wall giving that extra comfort under the foot. The 3metre version has 9 x 80mm treads and when it is fully extended it has a working height of 3.8metres, when the ladder is fully closed it measures a mere 79cm, perfect for a compact storage unit.

- No Of Treads – 9
- Tread Width - 80mm
- Product Weight - 10.2 Kg
- Certified - EN131 & SP (Rise)

Visit: www.killgerm.com

Assessment for the RSPH Level 3 Award in Pest Management

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RSPH has been in discussions with some of our approved centres that deliver the RSPH Level 3 Award in Pest Management regarding the assessment for the qualification.

The qualification consists of three units. Unit 1 is assessed by an examination and units 2 and 3 are each assessed by two reports of pest management treatments carried out. Unit 2 concerns vertebrate pest control and unit 3 invertebrate pest control.

Centres have reported that some candidates do not complete the assessments for units 2 and 3 due to time pressures, so our discussions with centres have focused on how we might alleviate the time pressure on candidates whilst still maintaining the rigour of the assessment.

As a result of this we are proposing that candidates have the option of replacing one of the reports from each of units 2 and 3 with a professional discussion with an assessor.

The professional discussion will mirror the requirements of the report, so essentially it will be a verbal version of the written report. Candidates will have to supply their assessor with a list of recent pest control treatments they have been involved in and the assessor will discuss these treatments with the candidate by asking questions such as 'how was the pest identified? Why does it need to be controlled? What control measures were used?' etc.

As with all assessments that are carried out by centres, the assessment decisions will be subject to scrutiny by RSPH. This ensures that centres are applying the correct standards and that all centres are assessing their candidates to the same level as every other centre.

These proposals have been circulated to all of the centres that are approved to offer the Level 3 Award for comment before a final decision is made.

Use of RSPH logos

RSPH
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
VISION, VOICE AND PRACTICE

RSPH sometimes receives reports of pest control companies displaying the RSPH logo. This is often the result of a customer being dissatisfied with the service that they received and wanting someone to complain to.

Pest controllers who have achieved one of the RSPH qualifications are justifiably proud of having done so. But unfortunately this does not entitle companies and individuals to display the RSPH logo. Individuals can, however, put on their web-site that they hold a particular RSPH qualification, and companies can state that all of their front-line staff are RSPH qualified if applicable.

The RSPH logo can be used by centres that are approved to deliver our qualifications (although this is not a requirement). The logo is sent to the centre after a successful application process. Pest controllers often receive in-house training from their employers in preparation for taking an assessment leading to an RSPH qualification. The assessment can only be conducted by an approved centre, so if you are thinking of going to a centre for either training or assessment you should check first that it is approved by RSPH. The centre will either display the RSPH Approved Centre logo or it will be listed as an approved centre on the RSPH web-site. You are advised to check our lists on the web-site to ensure that the centre is approved for the qualification that you want to study. You can do this by hovering your cursor over the 'Qualifications and Training' banner across the top of the homepage (www.rsph.org.uk) and then clicking on 'Find a qualification'. The list of centres approved for each of our qualifications is displayed on the homepage of that qualification.

The Importance of Pest Controllers for Nestlé

Ferenc Varga

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High quality pest control is crucial for the protection of public health as pests can contaminate food intended for human consumption and spread many forms of disease and harmful bacteria, as well as being a general nuisance. It is therefore especially important for businesses involved in the food industry to take considerable steps to prevent and control pests in a sustainable and responsible way.

We spoke to Ferenc Varga, a biologist working as the Food Safety Manager for Nestlé Nutrition, about the importance of using a certified and recognised pest controller. Ferenc has global responsibilities for Microbiological Safety & Integrated Pest Management within Nestlé.

Why does Nestlé need a pest controller?

Nestlé's logo on its product labels infers a promise to customers regarding nutritional quality and safety. That promise is not compatible with the presence of pests of any description in our processing areas. To that end, with a zero tolerance to pest presence, most of Nestlé's factories contract out the management and prevention of pests to professional Pest Control Officers.

What do you look for when hiring a pest controller?

Ideally, we would like to be working with the same pest management partner year after year. But there are a number of key aspects to consider when we do need to look for a new contractor. They must have experience of food industry standards and food safety in complex food manufacturing sites and be able to provide a service conforming to our own internal standards and utilize recognized best practices. They should have active membership of a recognized trade association or other professional body for their country or region. Importantly, they should already possess, or be progressing with, certification to the recognized standard of the trade association. We also look for evidence of satisfactory ongoing, continuous professional development of their technicians and their specialists – pest industry tools and strategies are always developing, and we want to see those developments used in our facilities.

Why is it important for Nestlé to use a verified pest controller?

Some of our factories are complex, handling many types of raw materials which could be vulnerable to difficult stored product insect pests and cause immense problems if allowed to find harbourage. A high-performing pest management provider will provide value to us by not only helping us to make our premises better pest-proofed, but by enabling a system whereby any pest presence is rapidly detected and eliminated before it has the potential to affect the quality of our products or the safety of the environment.

What are the risks if you don't use a certified pest controller?

Loss of reputation, reduced sales, these are the more likely risks that would spring to anybody's mind. But it is really much more than that. We don't want even one adverse consequence of pest presence affecting the experience of the consumer. We take pride in the quality of our products.

PROMPT is an independently recognised register for pest controllers. All PROMPT Register members will have successfully achieved a professional qualification in integrated pest management. In addition to this, to maintain their status on the PROMPT register, the largest independent professional register in the pest management industry, they will have completed a significant amount of Continuing Professional Development each year. This means that not only will the pest controller you employ be legally qualified, but they will also be keeping up to date with the latest developments in health and safety, legislation, environmental awareness and integrated pest management strategies. Find your trusted pest controller now.Through the PROMPT Verified tool on the PROMPT website.

Nestlé
Good Food, Good Life

0113 245 0845 giles.ward@milnerslaw.com or uk.linkedin.com/pub/giles-ward/31/187/6b3 @MilnersGiles

Vaccine discrimination… what does the law say?

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic, employers are facing many difficult and untested employment law issues relating to vaccination status. An equality watchdog has warned British employers to be careful about adopting blanket bans on unvaccinated workers, amid a growing debate on "no jab, no job" policies in the UK and worldwide. The warning came from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which oversees the application of equality and non-discrimination laws in the UK.

Mandating vaccination for employees has never been tested in UK law. The key legal problems with mandating the vaccine are the risks associated with dismissing employees who refuse and have over two years' service, and the potential for discrimination and unfair dismissal claims from employees with protected rights.

Demanding workers are vaccinated is "arguably and probably a breach of human rights: as individuals have a right not to go through medical procedures," said Simon Bass , head of employment law at Milners solicitors, leeds.

The government has in fact made vaccination compulsory for all workers in care homes regulated by the Care Quality Commission as of 11th November 2021. This has been legislated, meaning that care home employers will be able to rely on a legal basis for dismissing employees who refuse the vaccine. The government has also announced mandatory vaccination for frontline health and social care workers to take place from 1st April 2022.*

However, as it stands there are no plans to extend this mandate to other sectors. Meaning other employers proposing mandatory vaccination will not be in the same position and will therefore need to consider whether they have a fair and justifiable reason to dismiss employees who refuse vaccination but have more than two years' service.

If an employer could show that having a vaccine is the most reasonably practicable way of mitigating the risk of Covid-19, having carried out a risk assessment, it could in theory mandate the vaccination as a health and safety requirement, to protect both the employee themselves and others around them. Employees who refuse the vaccine could potentially then be dismissed for a health and safety breach.

Vaccines may also be needed for entry to some overseas locations. If the employee's role involves travel to those locations, then the vaccine is likely to be a necessary job requirement and the employer is likely to have a fair reason for dismissing any such employee who refuses the vaccine.

By contrast, although customer confidence could be improved if all staff are vaccinated, it's unclear but presumably unlikely if this alone would be enough to establish fair dismissals.

What is more practicable is the requirement of new or prospective employees to be vaccinated because there will be no risk of unfair dismissal claims. They still, however, have the right not to be discriminated against because of protected characteristics. This means employers opting for this sort of recruitment policy will need to consider, for example, making exceptions for employees with medical or belief reasons for not being vaccinated.

As always if anything arises from this article or you wish to discuss any legal issues please feel free to call Giles ward on 07789 401 411 or e mail giles.ward@milnerslaw.com

* Correct at time of writing

Your guide to the pest control

2022 TRAINING DATES

Killgerm® TRAINING

We're looking forward to welcoming you back!

We have put everything in place to ensure our training facilities are COVID-19 secure, allowing you to focus and enjoy all our educational experiences.

Killgerm Training run courses nationwide offering different types of courses for different levels of experience and knowledge. Details of all course dates and locations are available online at: **www.killgerm.com/pest-control-training-calendar**. There is also a full list in the Killgerm catalogue on pages 235-237. For further information or to book your place on a course call: **01924 268445** or email **training@killgerm.com**.

NORTHERN COURSES 2022

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
8th March 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
5th April 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
10th May 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
7th June 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
19th July 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
16th August 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
6th Sept 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
4th Oct 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
8th Nov 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
6th Dec 2022	Ossett	* £115/£145
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
6th & 7th April 2022	Ossett	* £160/£190
7th & 8th Sept 2022	Ossett	* £160/£190
9th & 10th Nov 2022	Ossett	* £160/£190

Note this lists only the Basic Principles of Pest Control courses.

Please visit our website for the full range of training courses

https://www.killgerm.com/technical/

SOUTHERN COURSES 2022

MIDLANDS		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
15th March 2022	Burton on Trent	* £115/£145
22nd Nov 2022	Burton on Trent	* £115/£145
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
16th & 17th March 2022	Burton on Trent	* £160/£190
23rd & 24th Nov 2022	Burton on Trent	* £160/£190

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
EAST ANGLIA		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
28th Feb 2022	Norwich	* £115/£145
12th Sept 2022	Norwich	* £115/£145
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
1st & 2nd March 2022	Norwich	* £160/£190
13th & 14th Sept 2022	Norwich	* £160/£190

BRISTOL		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
26th April 2022	Bristol	* £115/£145
28th Nov 2022	Bristol	* £115/£145
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
29th & 30th Nov 2022	Bristol	* £160/£190

SOUTHERN COURSES 2022

SURREY		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
7th March 2022	Lingfield	* £115/£145
18th July 2022	Lingfield	* £115/£145
19th Sept 2022	Lingfield	* £115/£145
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
8th & 9th March 2022	Lingfield	* £160/£190
19th & 20th July 2022	Lingfield	* £160/£190
20th & 21st Sept 2022	Lingfield	* £160/£190

SCOTTISH COURSES 2022

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
22nd March 2022	Livingston	* £115/£145
17th May 2022	Livingston	* £115/£145
22nd Nov 2022	Huntingtower Hotel, Perth	* £115/£145
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF INSECT CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
18th & 19th May 2022	Livingston	* £160/£190
23rd & 24th Nov 2022	Perth	* £160/£190

Some courses remain available online. https://training.killgerm.com/

Killgerm® Breakfast MEETINGS

Check online at **www.killgerm.com** for dates and to book

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