

Medical Entomology Centre



Incorporating
Insect Research & Development

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WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

Bedbugs, *Cimex lectularius*, are on the increase again after years of being in decline. The increase has been blamed on the number of people travelling to parts of the world where bedbugs are less well controlled and then returning with the uninvited guests in their luggage as stowaways.

Ian Burgess, Director of Medical Entomology Centre says:

“Following the introduction of DDT as a pest control agent in the late 1940s the bedbug went into steep decline. As a result they became virtually unknown in some communities for several decades. Recently however, bedbug infestations have increased and pest controllers are reporting a big rise on ten years ago.”

The increase is affecting some types of dwelling more than others. Hotels and guest houses are prime targets as are other short term accommodation. The difficulty in controlling the problem in these situations is the very nature of the occupancy – transient. The likelihood of an infestation being detected at an early stage is therefore significantly reduced.

In the 1880s it was estimated that over 75% of British housing stock was infested. By the outbreak of World War 1 the level had diminished to around 25%, a combination of better housekeeping procedures, methods of eradication and an extensive programme of building and housing improvements during the 1930s.

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Ian Burgess says:

“Here at Medical Entomology Centre we are at the forefront of helping to recognise and control the problem of bed bugs. We are able to offer the most up-to-date advice and assistance to pest controllers and have put together a specific course to give a wider ranging overview of the whole problem.”

Two one-day courses are scheduled for this year and anyone interested in further information should email Medical Entomology Centre on info@insectresearch.com or phone 01763263011.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

For further information contact Ian Burgess or Elizabeth Kidman on 10762263011.

