

5. Advisory work

5.1 Number of inquiries arranged by species

In 1997 the DPIL answered approximately 12,150 general inquiries from farmers, the food industry and other firms, veterinary surgeons, doctors and other health services, the news media, and private individuals with pest problems. Of these inquiries, 76% were telephone calls, 21% letters (often with animals enclosed for identification) and 3% visits to the laboratory. Many were answered by a leaflet on the subject, while others demanded special replies, sometimes after extensive studies.

In Table 5a, the inquiries are arranged by subject from a practical rather than a consistently zoological point of view. Many of the animal species or groups in the list do not deserve pest status. However, opinions vary and, for instance, in food articles any animal (or even trace of an animal) is often considered a problem. Every effort was also made to confirm that dubious animals were *not* pests.

Some of the inquiries led to inspections on location, but this type of frequently very time-consuming activity has been kept at a minimum since other engagements have priority. In 1997 there were 24 such inspections, paid for by insurance companies or other customers. Most of them concerned attacks of wood-boring insects in buildings.

As seen in Table 5a, the species which generated most inquiries were hornets (*Paravespula spp.*), the common black ant (*Lasius niger*), the mouse (*Muridae*), *Ctenocephalides* species (probably nearly all *Ct. felis*), the common furniture beetle (*Anobium punctatum*), head lice (*Pediculus capitis*), a mortar-attacking bee (*Colletes daviesanus*) and the Indian meal moth (*Plodia interpunctella*). Together these eight subjects made up 39% of the total number of inquiries.

Table 5a. Number of inquiries in 1997

Leaflets (in Danish) are available on pests marked with an asterisk (*)

Thysanura		Børstehaler	
*	<i>Lepisma saccharina</i>	Sølvkræ	144
*	<i>Thermobia domestica</i>	Ovnfisk	5
* Collembola		Springhaler	15
Orthoptera		Retvinger	
*	<i>Acheta domestica</i>	Husfårekyling	93
Blattaria		Kakerlakker	
	<i>Blatta orientalis</i>	Orientalisk kakerlak	1
*	<i>Blattella germanica</i>	Tysk kakerlak	111
	<i>Ectobius lapponica</i>	Skovkakerlak	2
	<i>Periplaneta americana</i>	Amerikansk kakerlak	6
	<i>Periplaneta australasiae</i>	Australsk kakerlak	4
*	<i>Supella longipalpa</i>	Brunstribet kakerlak	10
	<i>Blattaria</i> div.	Kakerlakker div.	22
Isoptera		Termitter	5
Dermaptera		Ørentviste	
*	<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	Alm. ørentvist	67
* Copeognatha		Støvlus	159
Mallophaga		Pelslus og fjerlus	6
Siphunculata		Lus	
*	<i>Pediculus capitis</i>	Hovedlus	469
	<i>Pediculus corporis</i>	Kropslus	2
*	<i>Phthirus pubis</i>	Fladlus	13
	<i>Siphunculata</i> div.	Lus div.	5

* Thysanoptera	Thrips	34
Hemiptera	Næbmunde	
<i>Anthocoris nemorum</i>	Bladlustæge	3
* <i>Cimex lectularius</i>	Væggelus	127
<i>Cimex pipistrelli</i>	Flagermus-væggelus	1
<i>Gastrodes ferrugineus</i>	Kogletæge	3
* <i>Reduvius personatus</i>	Støvtæge	7
<i>Hemiptera</i> div.	Tæger, bladlus, cikader div.	58
Neuroptera	Netvinger	
* <i>Chrysopa</i> spp.	Guldøjer	16
Lepidoptera	Sommerfugle	
* <i>Aphomia sociella</i>	Humlevoksmøl	70
* <i>Caradrina clavipalpis</i>	Tagorm	2
* <i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	Klistermøl	3
* <i>Ephestia elutella</i>	Kakaomøl	1
* <i>Ephestia kuehniella</i>	Melmøl	44
* <i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	Alm. frømøl	38
<i>Nemapogon</i> sp.	Kornmøl	1
* <i>Plodia interpunctella</i>	Tofarvet frømøl	476
<i>Pterophoridae</i> sp.	Fjermøl	1
* <i>Tinea pellionella</i>	Pelsmøl	70
* <i>Tineola bisselliella</i>	Klædemøl	208
* <i>Lepidoptera</i> div.	Sommerfugle div.	83
Coleoptera	Biller	
* <i>Alphitobius diaperinus</i>	Lille melbille	3
<i>Amphimallon solstitiale</i>	Sankthans-oldenborre	2
* <i>Anobium punctatum</i>	Alm. borebille	610
* <i>Anoplodera rubra</i>	Rød blomsterbuk	11
<i>Anthrenus museorum</i>	Museumsklanner	1
* <i>Anthrenus</i> spp.	Tæppebiller	339
* <i>Attagenus pellio</i>	Alm. pelsklanner	42
* <i>Attagenus smirnovi</i>	Brun pelsklanner	291
<i>Bostrychidae</i>	Bostrychider	19
<i>Bruchidae</i>	Bønnebiller	10
* <i>Callidium violaceum</i>	Violbuk	21
* <i>Carabidae</i>	Løbebiller	50
<i>Clytus arietis</i>	Hvæpsebuk	1
<i>Coccinellidae</i>	Mariehøns	3

<i>Corynetes coeruleus</i>	Skinkebille	1
* <i>Criocephalus rusticus</i>	Brun træbuk	18
<i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i>	Rustfarvet kornbille	1
* <i>Cryptophagus</i> spp.	Skimmelbiller	13
* <i>Dermestes haemorrhoidalis</i>	Husklanner	137
* <i>Dermestes lardarius</i>	Flæskeklanner	75
<i>Dermestes maculatus</i>	1
<i>Dinoderus minutus</i>	Lille bambusborer	1
<i>Dysticidae</i> spp.	Vandkalve	6
* <i>Ernobius mollis</i>	Blød borebille	10
<i>Europhryum confine</i>	Boresnudebille	1
* <i>Hadrobregmus pertinax</i>	Rådborebille	38
* <i>Hylesinus fraxini</i>	Askebarkbille	3
* <i>Hylobius abietis</i>	Nåletræssnudebille	3
* <i>Hylotrupes bajulus</i>	Husbuk	57
* <i>Lasioderma serricorne</i>	Tobaksbille	40
* <i>Lyctus</i> spp.	Splintvedbiller	11
<i>Meligethes</i> spp.	Glimmerbøsser	4
<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>	Alm. oldenborre	6
* <i>Nacerdes melanura</i>	Bolværksbille	5
<i>Necrobia</i> sp.	Koprabilde	1
* <i>Ocypus olens</i>	Stor rovbille	12
<i>Opilo domesticus</i>	Hus-præstebille	1
<i>Oryctes nasicornis</i>	Næsehorns-bille	2
<i>Oryzaephilus mercator</i>	Jordnøddebille	34
* <i>Oryzaephilus surinamensis</i>	Savtakked kornbille	41
* <i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i>	Væksthussnudebille	21
* <i>Otiorhynchus</i> spp. .	Øresnudebille	36
<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>	Gåsebille	11
* <i>Phymatodes testaceus</i>	Bøgebuk	56
* <i>Pselactus spadix</i>	Alm. boresnudebille	6
<i>Ptinus fur</i>	Alm. tyvbille	8
<i>Ptinus tectus</i>	Australsk tyvbille	3
* <i>Reesa vespulae</i>	Amerikansk klanner	4
<i>Scolytidae</i>	Barkbiller	15
* <i>Sitona lineatus</i>	Stribet bladrandbille	12
* <i>Sitophilus granarius</i>	Kornsnudebille	14
* <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i>	Rissnudebille	17
<i>Sitophilus zea-mais</i>	Majssnudebille	1
<i>Staphyllinidae</i>	Rovbiller	18
* <i>Stegobium paniceum</i>	Brødbille	114
* <i>Tenebrio molitor</i>	Melbille	39

<i>Tenebroides mauretanicus</i>	Korngraver	1
<i>Tetropium castaneum</i>	Sort granbuk	1
<i>Thylocladius contractus</i>	Larveklanner	1
<i>Tribolium castaneum</i>	Kastaniebrun rismelbille	6
* <i>Tribolium confusum</i>	Rismelbille	29
* <i>Tribolium destructor</i>	Lysolbille	5
<i>Trogoderma angustum</i>	Smal frøklanner	11
* <i>Xestobium rufovillosum</i>	Egens borebille	7
<i>Coleoptera</i> div.	Biller div.	92
Hymenoptera	Årevinger	
<i>Andrena</i> spp.	Jordbier	69
<i>Apis mellifica</i>	Honningbi	51
<i>Bombus</i> spp.	Humblebier	154
* <i>Camponotus</i> spp.	Herculesmyrer	67
* <i>Colletes daviesanus</i>	Murbi	462
<i>Formica rufa</i>	Rød skovmyre	40
<i>Formica</i> spp.	Formica-myrer	56
<i>Lasius fuliginosus</i>	Orangemyre	38
* <i>Lasius niger</i>	Sort havemyre	761
* <i>Lasius umbratus and others</i>	Gule myrer	45
<i>Megachile</i> spp.	Bladskærebier	2
* <i>Monomorium pharaonis</i>	Faraomyre	29
<i>Osmia</i> spp.	Murerbier	6
* <i>Paravespula</i> spp.	Gedehamse	944
* <i>Siricidae</i> spp.	Træhvepse	19
<i>Sphécoidae</i> spp.	Gravehvepse	27
<i>Tapinoma</i> spp.	Tropisk myreslægt	2
* <i>Vespa crabro</i>	Stor gedehams	62
<i>Hymenoptera</i> div.	Årevinger div.	48
Diptera	Tovinger	
<i>Borboridae</i>	Springfluer	15
* <i>Calliphoridae</i>	Spyfluer	87
* <i>Ceratopogonidae</i>	Mitter	11
<i>Chironomidae</i>	Dansemyg	7
* <i>Crataerina pallida</i>	Mursejlerluseflue	1
<i>Culicidae</i> spp.	Stikmyg	49
* <i>Drosophila</i> spp.	Bananfluer	96
<i>Eristalis</i> spp.	Dyndfluer	1
<i>Fannia canicularis</i>	Lille stueflue	60
<i>Lipoptena cervi</i>	Hjortens luseflue	2

<i>Melophagus ovinus</i>	Fårets luseflue.....	2
* <i>Musca domestica</i>	Stueflue.....	88
* <i>Mycetophilidae</i>	Svampemyg.....	46
<i>Phoridae</i>	Pukkelfluer.....	5
* <i>Pollenia</i> spp.	Klyngefluer.....	49
* <i>Psychodidae</i>	Sommerfuglemyg.....	49
<i>Simuliidae</i> spp.	Kvægmyg.....	5
<i>Stehepteryx hiriundinis</i>	Svaleluseflue.....	1
<i>Stomoxys calcitrans</i>	Stikflue.....	4
<i>Syrphidae</i> spp.	Svirrefluer.....	15
* <i>Tabanidae</i> spp.	Klæger.....	12
* <i>Thaumatomyia notata</i>	Græsflue.....	6
<i>Tipulidae</i> spp.	Stankelben.....	3
<i>Diptera</i> div.	Tovinger div.	76
Siphonaptera	Lopper	
<i>Archaeopsyllus erinacei</i>	Pindsvineloppe.....	4
<i>Ceratophyllus</i> spp.	Fuglelopper.....	135
* <i>Ctenocephalides</i> spp.	Katte- og hundelopper.....	546
<i>Ceratophyllus (Monopsyllus)</i> <i>sciurorum sciurorum</i>	Egernloppe.....	1
* <i>Pulex irritans</i>	Menneskeloppe.....	4
<i>Siphonaptera</i> div.	Lopper div.....	35
Pests on textiles.....	Tekstilskadedyr.....	95
Pests in food.....	Kolonialskadedyr.....	34
Pests in wood.....	Træskadedyr.....	30
Various insects	Diverse insekter	58
Acarina	Mider	
* <i>Acarus siro</i>	Melmide.....	30
* <i>Argas reflexus</i>	Duemide.....	2
* <i>Bryobia praetiosa</i>	Brunmide.....	47
* <i>Cheyletiella</i> spp.	Pelsmider.....	15
* <i>Dermanyssus</i> spp.	Fuglemider.....	20
* <i>Dermatophagoides</i> spp.	Husstøvmider.....	13
<i>Gamasidae</i>	Gamasider.....	2
* <i>Glycyphagus domesticus</i>	Husmide.....	5
* <i>Ixodes ricinus</i>	Skovflåt.....	109
<i>Neotrombicula autumnalis</i>	Augustmide.....	1
<i>Oribatidae</i> spp.	Pansermider.....	1

* <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>	Husflåt	6
* <i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i>	Fnatmide	13
* Mites in grain, straw and hay	Lagermider	4
<i>Acarina</i> div.	Mider div.	24
* Araneae	Edderkopper	51
Scorpiones	Skorpioner	1
* Pseudoscorpiones	Mosskorpioner	2
* Diplopoda	Ægte tusindben	20
Chilopoda	Skolopendre	
* <i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>	Jordskolopender	11
<i>Chilopoda</i> div.	Skolopendre div.	11
* Oniscoidea	Bænkebidere	38
Oligochaeta	Sadelbørsteorme	
<i>Lumbricidae</i>	Regnorme	13
Nematoda	Rundorme	5
Gastropoda	Snegle	
* <i>Limacidae</i>	Kældersnegle	18
<i>Gastropoda</i> div.	Snegle div.	32
Amphibia	Padder	2
Lamellibranchiata	Muslinger	
<i>Teredo navalis</i>	Pæleorm	2
Reptilia	Krybdyr	3
Aves	Fugle	
* <i>Columba livia domestica</i>	Tamdue	155
<i>Corvidae</i> spp.	Kragefugle	2
<i>Pica pica</i>	Husskade	4
<i>Aves</i> div.	Fugle div.	8
Mammalia	Pattedyr	
<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>	Halsbåndmus	30

* <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Mosegris	309
<i>Chiroptera</i> spp.	Flagermus	7
<i>Felis domestica</i>	Huskat.....	5
* <i>Martes foina</i>	Husmår.....	281
<i>Meles meles</i>	Grævling	1
* <i>Muridae</i>	Mus	425
* <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Brun rotte.....	194
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Husrotte	3
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Egern.....	1
* <i>Talpa europaea</i>	Muldvarp	320
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Ræv.....	22
<i>Mammalia</i> div.	Pattedyr div.	21
Various animals	Diverse dyr	90
Imaginary animals	Indbildte dyr	24
Pesticides	Bekæmpelsesmidler	135
Various	Diverse	266

5.2 Some of the cases and characteristic variations in the number of inquiries in 1997

Mosquitoes, *Culicidae*, were recorded in normal figures. Early in the season we believed that the occurrence of mosquitoes in 1997 would be low, due to a small amount of rain during January, February, and March. Heavy rain during May filled many of their breeding areas and brought the situation back to normal.

German cockroach, *Blattella germanica*, has been recorded in low figures during the past three years. This year we received 111 inquiries about this species, which is normal. The development of cockroaches has probably been favoured by the very high temperatures recorded in July and August.

A supposed pest problem was recorded in August in reed imported from Turkey. The thatchers who handle the reed developed dermatitis. A similar case was recorded in 1996, where the residents in a house with a newly thatched roof experienced the same problems. In both cases we could not detect any pests causing dermatitis.

Arion lusitanicus, a snail, was seen on few locations in great numbers and was presented on national television. This resulted in a lot of inquiries from worried people, who believed that this snail was in their garden, where it can be a serious pest. Without attracting attention, this snail has formerly been recorded from several localities in Denmark, so it is probably quite unusual that it occurs in such high numbers.

Indian meal moth, *Plodia interpunctella*, was this year recorded in the highest figures ever. This species constituted nearly 40% of the inquiries that concerned pests in food. Calls concerning Indian meal moth have been increasing for a number of years. In most cases, the inquiries were made by private individuals who found larvae or adults in connection with products containing nuts, almonds or dried fruit. An explanation could be that the consumption of products containing food, in which these moths develop, has been increasing also. Last summer's unusual heat might also explain the very high number of calls.

Headlice, *Pediculus capitis*, occurred at the same high level as last year. Calls about headlice were previously especially frequent in periods after long school holidays. However, this seems not to be the case any more, as

the inquiries are more evenly spread throughout the year. Chemists, health visitors, nursery teachers and parents are telling about an increasing amount of children suffering from headlice several times each year. Often they call because they suspect the pesticides used against headlice to be ineffective. In Denmark no research has been carried out that could enlighten the question about the increasing problems with headlice. Instructions about the correct way of using the pesticides against headlice and information about the biology of headlice and possible source of infection are important in the control of this species.

Giant hornet, *Vespa crabro*, has not since 1993 been recorded in such a high number as was the case this year. The amount of calls concerning hornets (*Paravespula spp.*) was not higher than usual in 1997.

Cat fleas, *Ctenocephalides felis*, have, for the last two years, been recorded in a lower number than the previous years. This might be the result of an increasing use of preventive formulations for control of fleas, since a new product came on the market in 1995.

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