5. Advisory work

5.1 Number of inquiries arranged by species

In 1999 DPIL answered approximately 12,550 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, 75% were telephone calls, 20% letters (often with animals enclosed for identification), and 3% visits to the laboratory. Many were answered by the sending of a leaflet on the subject, whereas others required replies in more detail, sometimes after extensive studies. In June, the Website of the laboratory was launched on the Internet with a special link entitled "Questions about pests" resulting in a percentage of inquiries by e-mail of 2%. It is our aim to make all leaflets available to the public on the Website. The address is www.dpil.dk

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 1999 there were 12 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 the most enquiries were the hornets (*Paravespula spp.*), the common black ant (*Lasius niger*), the common furniture beetle (*Anobium punctatum*), head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*), a mortar-attacking bee (*Colletes daviesanus*), the Indian meal moth (*Plodia interpunctella*), the dermestid beetle (*Attagenus smirnovi)*, the mouse (*Muridae*), the stone marten (*Martes foina)* and the water vole *(Arvicola terrestris)*. Together these ten subjects made up 50% of the total number of inquiries.

Table 5a. Number of inquiries in 1999

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

	Thysanura	**Børstehaler**	
*	*Lepisma saccharina*	Sølvkræ	151
*	*Thermobia domestica*	Ovnfisk	6
*	**Collembola**	**Springhaler**	12
	Orthoptera	**Retvinger**	
*	*Acheta domestica*	Husfårekylling	32
	Blattaria	**Kakerlakker**	
	Blatta orientalis	Orientalsk kakerlak	10
*	*Blattella germanica*	Tysk kakerlak	97
	Neostylopyga rhombifolia	Harlekin kakerlak	1
	Periplaneta americana	Amerikansk kakerlak	4
	Pycnoscelus surinamensis		1
*	*Supella longipalpa*	Brunstribet kakerlak	2
	Blattaria div.	Kakerlakker div.	65
	Isoptera	**Termitter**	9
	Dermaptera	**Ørentviste**	
*	*Forficula auricularia*	Alm. ørentvist	12
*	**Copeognatha**	**Støvlus**	177
	Mallophaga	**Pelslus og fjerlus**	3
	Echiropthirius horridus	Sællus	1
	Siphunculata	**Lus**	
	Linognathus setosus	Hundelus	1
*	*Pediculus capitis*	Hovedlus	622
	Pediculus corporis	Kropslus	2
*	*Phthirus pubis*	Fladlus	2
	Siphunculata div.	Lus div.	3
*	**Thysanoptera**	**Thrips**	27
	Hemiptera	**Næbmunde**	
	C*imex lectularius*	Væggelus	126
	Cimex pipistrelli	Flagermusevæggelus	1
*	*Reduvius personatus*	Støvtæge	11
	Hemiptera div.	Tæger, bladlus, cikader div.	24
	Neuroptera	**Netvinger**	
*	*Chrysopa* spp.	Guldøjer	4
	Lepidoptera	**Sommerfugle**	
*	*Aphomia sociella*	Humlevoksmøl	68

*	*Endrosis sarcitrella*	Klistermøl	14
*	*Ephestia elutella*	Kakaomøl	3
*	*Ephestia kuehniella*	Melmøl	16
*	*Hofmannophila pseudospretella*	Frømøl	46
*	*Plodia interpunctella*	Tofarvet frømøl	411
	Pterophoridae spp	Fjermøl	3
*	*Tinea pellionella*	Pelsmøl	50
*	*Tineola bisselliella*	Klædemøl	38
*	*Lepidoptera* div.	Sommerfugle div.	96

	Coleoptera	**Biller**	
*	*Alphitobius diaperinus*	Lille melbille	3
	Amphimallon solstitiale	Sankthansoldenborre	4
*	*Anobium punctatum*	Alm. borebille	515
*	*Anoplodera rubra*	Rød blomsterbuk	11
	Anthrenus spp	Tæppebiller	234
*	*Attagenus pellio*	Pelsklanner	14
*	*Attagenus smirnovi*	Brun pelsklanner	366
	Bostrychidae	Bostrychider	6
*	*Callidium violaceum*	Violbuk	23
*	*Carabidae*	Løbebiller	43
	Carpophilus hemipterus	Tørfrugtbille	1
	Cerambycidae	Træbukke	10
	Cis boleti	Svampeborer	1
	Clytus arietis	Hvepsebuk	5
	Coccinellidae	Mariehøns	5
	Corynetes coeruleus	Skinkebille	3
*	*Criocephalus rusticus*	Brun træbuk	10
	Cryptolestes ferrugineus	Rustfarvet kornbille	4
*	*Cryptophagus* spp	Skimmelbiller	16
	Dermestes frischii	Hudeklanner	1
*	*Dermestes haemorrhoidalis*	Husklanner	112
*	*Dermestes lardarius*	Flæskeklanner	39
	Dermestes maculatus		2
*	*Ernobius mollis*	Blød borebille	5
	Europhryum confine		1
*	*Hadrobregmus pertinax*	Rådborebille	14
*	*Hylesinus fraxini*	Askebarkbille	1
*	*Hylobius abietis*	Nåletræssnudebille	4
*	*Hylotrupes bajulus*	Husbuk	35
*	*Lasioderma serricorne*	Tobaksbille	37
*	*Lyctus* spp	Splintvedbiller	5
	Lymexylidae	Værftsbiller	1
	Melolontha melolontha	Alm. oldenborre	5
*	*Nacerdes melanura*	Bolværksbille	2
	Niptus hololeucus	Messingtyv	1
*	*Ocypus olens*	Stor rovbille	15
	Oryctes nasicornis	Næsehornsbille	2
	Oryzaephilus mercator	Jordnøddebille	12
*	*Oryzaephilus surinamensis*	Savtakket kornbille	49
*	*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*	Væksthussnudebille	13
*	*Otiorhyncus* spp.	Øresnudebille	20
	Phyllopertha horticola	Gåsebille	17
*	*Phymatodes testaceus*	Bøgebuk	67

	Ptilodactyla spp.		3
	Ptinus fur	Alm. tyvbille	5
	Ptinus tectus	Australsk tyvbille	1
*	*Reesa vespulae*	Amerikansk klanner	8
	Rhyzopertha dominica	Kornkapuciner	1
	Scolytidae	Barkbiller	20
	Serica brunnea	Natoldenborre	3
*	*Sitona lineatus*	Stribet bladrandbille	9
*	*Sitophilus granarius*	Kornsnudebille	31
*	*Sitophilus oryzae*	Rissnudebille	14
	Sitophilus zea-mais	Majssnudebille	1
	Staphyllinidae	Rovbiller	12
*	*Stegobium paniceum*	Brødbille	131
*	*Tenebrio molitor*	Melbille	41
	Thylodrias contractus	Larveklanner	4
*	*Tribolium confusum*	Rismelbille	30
*	*Tribolium destructor*	Lysolbille	11
	Trogoderma angustum	Smal frøklanner	4
*	*Xestobium rufovillosum*	Egens borebille	4
	Coleoptera div.	Biller div.	112
	Hymenoptera	**Årevinger**	
	Andrena spp.	Jordbier	46
	Apis mellifica	Honningbi	14
	Bombus spp.	Humlebier	119
*	*Camponotus* spp.	Herkulesmyrer	47
*	*Colletes daviesanus*	Murbi	463
	Formicidae	Myrer	144
	Formica rufa	Rød skovmyre	63
	Lasius fuliginosus	Orangemyre	18
*	*Lasius niger*	Sort havemyre	727
*	*Lasius umbratus and others*	"Gule myrer"	46
*	*Monomorium pharaonis*	Faraomyre	36
	Osmia spp.	Murerbier	32
*	*Paravespula* spp.	Gedehamse	1278
*	*Siricidae*	Træhvepse	15
	Sphecoidae	Gravehvepse	13
	Tetramorium	Græstørvsmyre	3
*	*Vespa crabro*	Stor gedehams	42
	Hymenoptera div.	Årevinger div	59
	Diptera	**Tovinger**	
	Bibionidae	Hårmyg	13
	Borboridae	Springfluer	5
*	*Calliphoridae*	Spyfluer	63
*	*Ceratopogonidae*	Mitter	7
	Chironomidae	Dansemyg	11
*	*Crataerina pallida*	Mursejlerlusflue	1
	Culicidae	Stikmyg	40
*	*Drosophila* spp.	Bananfluer	101
	Eristalis spp.	Dyndfluer	3
*	*Fannia canicularis*	Lille stueflue	17
	Musca autumnalis	Efterårsflue	3
*	*Musca domestica*	Stueflue	60

*	*Mycetophilidae*	Svampemyg	31
	Ornithomyia spp.	Lusfluer	7
	Phoridae	Pukkelfluer	9
*	*Pollenia* spp.	Klyngefluer	56
*	*Psychodidae*	Sommerfuglemyg	36
	Simuliidae	Kvægmyg	2
	Stehepteryx hiriundinis	Svalelusflue	1
	Stomoxys calcitrans	Stikflue	6
	Syrphidae	Svirrefluer	3
*	*Tabanidae*	Klæger	9
*	*Thaumatomyia notata*	Græsflue	9
	Tipulidae	Stankelben	11
	Diptera div.	Tovinger div.	81
	Siphonaptera	**Lopper**	
	Ceratophyllus spp.	Fuglelopper	185
*	*Ctenocephalides* spp.	Katte- og hundelopper	200
	Ceratophyllus (Monopsyllus) sciurorum sciurorum	Egernloppe	1
*	*Pulex irritans*	Menneskeloppe	5
	Siphonaptera div.	Lopper div.	51
	Pests on textiles	Tekstilskadedyr	229
	Pests in food	Kolonialskadedyr	31
	Pests in wood	Træskadedyr	68
	Various insects	**Diverse insekter**	157
	Acarina	**Mider**	
*	*Acarus siro*	Melmide	21
*	*Argas reflexus*	Duemide	4
*	*Bryobia praetiosa*	Brunmide	20
*	*Cheyletiella* spp.	Pelsmider	8
*	*Dermanyssus* spp.	Fuglemider	25
*	*Dermatophagoides* spp.	Husstøvmider	9
	Gamasidae	Gamasider	4
*	*Glycyphagus domesticus*	Husmide	5
*	*Ixodes ricinus*	Skovflåt	68
	Oribatidae	Pansermider	4
*	*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*	Husflåt	2
*	*Sarcoptes scabiei*	Fnatmide	5
*	Mites in grain, straw and hay	Lagermider	2
	Acarina div.	Mider div.	42
*	**Araneae**	**Edderkopper**	44
	Scorpiones	**Skorpioner**	2
*	**Pseudoscorpiones**	**Mosskorpioner**	9
*	**Diplopoda**	**Ægte tusindben**	35
	Chilopoda	**Skolopendre**	

5.2 Some of the cases and characteristic variations in the number of inquiries in 1999

This year saw the highest number of inquiries about **mice (*Muridae spp*.)** since the registration started in 1952. The frequency of incidence of mice is dependent on the topical amount of food and mildness of the winter, and this may explain the many inquiries about mice. In the past few years the advisers have had the impression that more and more inquiries concern the **yellow-necked field mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*)**, but only in few cases has this been confirmed. The yellow-necked field mouse - being first and foremost connected with woods and areas of a parklike nature - obviously takes to more houses than before.

In the month of June our laboratory received a sample from a baby seal taken to the "Kattegat Centre", because it had been abandoned by its mother. The veterinarian, who examined the seal, found vermin around its nose and considered it to be ticks. It turned out to be **seal lice (*Echiropthirius horridus*)**, and we think that it is the first time in the history of our laboratory that this species of lice has been seen.

The number of inquiries about problems with **cat fleas *(Ctenocephalides felis)*** decreased constantly in 1999, whereas the number of inquiries about **head lice *(Pediculus capitis)*** was once again the highest ever seen. The preparations available on the market for prevention and control of cat fleas are apparently very effective, whereas there are increasing problems when it comes to headlice on humans. In Denmark investigations have still not been made as to whether the preparations on sale for control of headlice have become less effective or whether the many problems stem from other causes.

In 1998 there were many inquiries from people being worried if the slug they had found in their garden was the **Iberian black slug (*Arion lusitanicus*)** that has been recorded in still more places in Denmark in the past few years. In 1999 there were not nearly as many inquiries which may be due to the fact that the media did not pay much attention to this slug. In the vast majority of cases - both in 1998 and 1999 - our laboratory was able to reassure that the slugs in question were quite harmless species.

Bird fleas (*Ceratophyllus* spp.) were very active in April 1999, and the number of inquiries in this month was unusually high compared with the average of inquiries of former years. The number of inquiries about the above fleas may fluctuate much from year to year. The reason for this is unknown; however, the weather conditions in the months of April and May when fleas are most active may be of great influence.

Many people with gardens have had problems with **moles (*Talpa europaea*)** and especially **water voles (*Arvicola terrestris*)**, which have been more active than normally in nearly all the months of the year. Part of the explanation may be lower mortality due to a mild winter. Another reason could be the fact that a higher water level in lakes and streams resulting from heavy rain-fall has forced especially water voles to move into drier areas where they normally do not occur.