

5. Advisory work

5.1 Number of inquiries arranged by species

In 2000 DPIL answered approximately 11,000 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, 72% were telephone calls, 21% letters (often with animals enclosed for identification), 4% were e-mails and 3% visits to the laboratory. Many were answered by dispatching a leaflet on the subject, whereas others required replies in more detail, sometimes after extensive studies. Some of the inquiries led to inspections on location, but this type of examination is laborious and has been kept at a minimum since other engagements have priority at the laboratory. Most of the visits concerned attacks of wood-boring insects in buildings.

The species which generated the most inquiries were the hornet (*Paravespula spp.*), the common black ant (*Lasius niger*), the common furniture beetle (*Anobium punctatum*), head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*), the mole (*Talpa europaea*), 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 44% of the total number of inquiries.

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.

Table 5a. Number of inquiries in 2000

Leaflets (in Danish) in paper version are available on pests marked with an asterisk (*) – approx. 1/3 of these leaflets are available in an electronic version as well.

Thysanura		Børstehaler	
* <i>Lepisma saccharina</i>		Sølvkræ	112
* <i>Thermobia domestica</i>		Ovnfisk.....	5
* Collembola		Springhaler	9
Orthoptera		Retvinger	
* <i>Acheta domestica</i>		Husfårekylning.....	23
* <i>Tachysines asynamorus</i>		Væksthusgræshoppe.....	2
Blattaria		Kakerlakker	
<i>Blatta orientalis</i>		Orientalisk kakerlak	4
* <i>Blattella germanica</i>		Tysk kakerlak	82
<i>Neostylopyga rhombifolia</i>		Harlekin kakerlak	2
<i>Periplaneta americana</i>		Amerikansk kakerlak	14
<i>Pycnoscelus surinamensis</i>			1
* <i>Supella longipalpa</i>		Brunstribet kakerlak	2
<i>Blattaria</i> div.		Kakerlakker div.	50
Isoptera		Termitter	1
Dermaptera		Ørentviste	
* <i>Forficula auricularia</i>		Alm. ørentvist.....	20
* Copeognatha		Støvlus	187
Mallophaga		Pelslus og fjerlus	1
Siphunculata		Lus	
* <i>Pediculus capitis</i>		Hovedlus	502
<i>Pediculus corporis</i>		Kropslus	2
* <i>Phthirus pubis</i>		Fladlus.....	7
<i>Siphunculata</i> div.....		Lus div.....	2
* Thysanoptera		Thrips	21
Hemiptera		Næbmunde	
<i>Cimex lectularius</i>		Væggelus.....	129
* <i>Reduvius personatus</i>		Støvtæge.....	9
<i>Hemiptera</i> div.....		Tæger, bladlus, cikader div.	36
Neuroptera		Netvinger	
* <i>Chrysopa</i> spp.....		Guldøjer	19

Lepidoptera	Sommerfugle	
* <i>Aphomia sociella</i>	Humlevoksmøl	49
* <i>Caradrina clavipalpes</i>	Tagorm	4
* <i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	Klistermøl	10
* <i>Ephestia elutella</i>	Kakaomøl	2
* <i>Ephestia kuehniella</i>	Melmøl	21
* <i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	Frømol	37
* <i>Plodia interpunctella</i>	Tofarvet frømol	444
<i>Pterophoridae</i> spp	Fjermøl	3
* <i>Tinea pellionella</i>	Pelsmøl	25
* <i>Tineola bisselliella</i>	Klædemøl	47
* <i>Lepidoptera</i> div.	Sommerfugle div.	124
Coleoptera	Biller	
* <i>Alphitobius diaperinus</i>	Lille melbille	3
<i>Amphimallon solstitiale</i>	Sankthansoldenborre	8
* <i>Anobium punctatum</i>	Alm. borebille	433
* <i>Anoplodera rubra</i>	Rød blomsterbuk	7
<i>Anthrenus</i> spp	Tæppebiller	173
<i>Araecerus fasciculatus</i>	Kaffebønnebille	1
* <i>Attagenus pellio</i>	Pelsklanner	8
* <i>Attagenus smirnovi</i>	Brun pelsklanner	274
<i>Bostrychidae</i>	Bostrychider	7
<i>Bruchidae</i>	Bønnebille	5
* <i>Callidium violaceum</i>	Violbuk	8
* <i>Carabidae</i>	Løbebiller	34
<i>Cerambycidae</i>	Træbukke	12
<i>Clytus arietis</i>	Hvæpsebuk	9
<i>Coccinellidae</i>	Mariehøns	2
* <i>Criocephalus rusticus</i>	Brun træbuk	12
<i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i>	Rustfarvet kornbille	4
* <i>Cryptophagus</i> spp	Skimmelbiller	16
* <i>Dermestes haemorrhoidalis</i>	Husklanner	79
* <i>Dermestes lardarius</i>	Flæskeklanner	53
<i>Dermestes maculatus</i>	1
* <i>Ernobius mollis</i>	Blød borebille	9
<i>Europhryum confine</i>	5
* <i>Hadrobregmus pertinax</i>	Rådborebille	17
* <i>Hylesinus fraxini</i>	Askebarkbille	2
* <i>Hylobius abietis</i>	Nåletræssnudebille	4
* <i>Hylotrupes bajulus</i>	Husbuk	28
* <i>Lasioderma serricorne</i>	Tobaksbille	37
* <i>Lyctus</i> spp	Splintvedbiller	1
<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>	Alm. oldenborre	11
* <i>Nacerdes melanura</i>	Bolværksbille	6
<i>Niptus hololeucus</i>	Messingtyv	1
* <i>Ocypus olens</i>	Stor rovbille	3
<i>Oryzaephilus mercator</i>	Jordnøddebille	18
* <i>Oryzaephilus surinamensis</i>	Savtakket kornbille	32
* <i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i>	Væksthussnudebille	11
* <i>Otiorhynchus</i> spp	Øresnudebille	22
<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>	Gåsebille	9

* <i>Phymatodes testaceus</i>	Bøgebuk	39
<i>Prionus coriarius</i>	Garveren	2
<i>Ptinus pectinicornis</i>	Kamhornet borebille	3
<i>Ptinus fur</i>	Alm. tyvbille	5
* <i>Reesa vespulae</i>	Amerikansk klanner	7
<i>Scolytidae</i>	Barkbiller	16
<i>Serica brunnea</i>	Natoldenborre	3
* <i>Sitona lineatus</i>	Stribet bladrandbille	14
* <i>Sitophilus granarius</i>	Kornsnudebille	42
* <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i>	Rissnudebille	34
<i>Sitophilus zea-mais</i>	Majssnudebille	1
<i>Staphyllinidae</i>	Rovbiller	11
* <i>Stegobium paniceum</i>	Brødbille	131
* <i>Tenebrio molitor</i>	Melbille	38
<i>Thylotrias contractus</i>	Larveklanner	1
<i>Tribolium castaneum</i>	Kastaniebrun rismelbille	1
* <i>Tribolium confusum</i>	Rismelbille	31
* <i>Tribolium destructor</i>	Lysolbille	4
<i>Trogoderma angustum</i>	Smal frøklanner	7
* <i>Xestobium rufovillosum</i>	Egens borebille	6
<i>Coleoptera</i> div.	Biller div.	112
Hymenoptera	Årevinger	
<i>Andrena</i> spp.	Jordbier	38
<i>Apis mellifica</i>	Honningbi	13
<i>Bombus</i> spp.	Humlebier	53
* <i>Camponotus</i> spp.	Herkulesmyrer	23
* <i>Colletes daviesanus</i>	Murbi	237
<i>Formicidae</i>	Myrer	149
<i>Formica rufa</i>	Rød skovmyre	38
<i>Hypoponera punctatissima</i>	1
<i>Lasius fuliginosus</i>	Orangemyre	17
* <i>Lasius niger</i>	Sort havemyre	465
* <i>Lasius umbratus and others</i>	"Gule myrer"	38
* <i>Monomorium pharaonis</i>	Faraomyre	26
<i>Osmia</i> spp.	Murerbier	11
* <i>Paravespula</i> spp.	Gedehamse	1311
* <i>Siricidae</i>	Træhvepse	17
<i>Sphécoidae</i>	Gravehvepse	12
<i>Sylvicola fenestralis</i>	Vinduesmyg	1
* <i>Vespa crabro</i>	Stor gedehams	19
<i>Hymenoptera</i> div.	Årevinger div.	74
Diptera	Tovinger	
<i>Bibionidae</i>	Hårmyg	5
<i>Borboridae</i>	Springfluer	2
* <i>Calliphoridae</i>	Spyfluer	47
* <i>Ceratopogonidae</i>	Mitter	9
<i>Chironomidae</i>	Dansemyg	3
* <i>Crataerina pallida</i>	Mursejlerlusflue	1
<i>Culicidae</i>	Stikmyg	14
* <i>Drosophila</i> spp.	Bananfluer	123
<i>Eristalis</i> spp.	Dyndfluer	6

* <i>Fannia canicularis</i>	Lille stueflue	32
<i>Musca autumnalis</i>	Kvægflue	2
* <i>Musca domestica</i>	Stueflue	51
* <i>Mycetophilidae</i>	Svampemyg	34
<i>Ornithomyia</i> spp.	Lusfluer	4
<i>Phoridae</i>	Pukkelfluer	4
* <i>Pollenia</i> spp.	Klyngefluer	66
* <i>Psychodidae</i>	Sommerfuglemyg	38
<i>Scenopinus fenestralis</i>	Vinduesflue	1
<i>Simuliidae</i>	Kvægmyg	3
<i>Stomoxys calcitrans</i>	Stikflue	5
<i>Syrphidae</i>	Svirrefluer	5
* <i>Tabanidae</i>	Klæger	7
* <i>Thaumatomyia notata</i>	Græsflue	23
<i>Tipulidae</i>	Stankelben	9
<i>Diptera</i> div.	Tovinger div.	91
Siphonaptera	Lopper	
<i>Ceratophyllus</i> spp.	Fuglelopper	75
* <i>Ctenocephalides</i> spp.	Katte- og hundelopper	192
<i>Ceratophyllus (Monopsyllus)</i> <i>sciurorum sciurorum</i>	Egernloppe	3
* <i>Pulex irritans</i>	Menneskeloppe	2
<i>Siphonaptera</i> div.	Lopper div.	53
Pests on textiles	Tekstilskadedyr	261
Pests in food	Kolonialskadedyr	46
Pests in wood	Træskadedyr	78
Various insects	Diverse insekter	88
Acarina	Mider	
* <i>Acarus siro</i>	Melmide	28
* <i>Argas reflexus</i>	Duemide	2
* <i>Bryobia praetiosa</i>	Brunmide	42
* <i>Cheyletiella</i> spp.	Pelsmider	4
* <i>Dermanyssus</i> spp.	Fuglemider	17
* <i>Dermatophagoides</i> spp.	Husstøvmider	8
<i>Gamasidae</i>	Gamasider	2
* <i>Glycyphagus domesticus</i>	Husmide	2
* <i>Ixodes ricinus</i>	Skovflåt	54
<i>Listrophoridae</i>		1
<i>Oribatidae</i>	Pansermider	1
* <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>	Husflåt	8
* <i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i>	Fnatmide	7
* Mites in grain, straw and hay	Lagermider	13
<i>Acarina</i> div.	Mider div.	54
* Araneae	Edderkopper	48
* Pseudoscorpiones	Mosskorpioner	7
* Diplopoda	Ægte tusindben	92

Chilopoda	Skolopendre	
* <i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>	Jordskolopender.....	1
<i>Chilopoda</i> div.....	Skolopendre div.....	12
* Oniscoidea	Bænkebidere	69
Oligochaeta	Sadelbørsteorme	
<i>Lumbricidae</i>	Regnorme.....	7
Gastropoda	Snegle	
<i>Arion lusitanicus</i>	Iberisk skovsnegl.....	88
* <i>Limacidae</i>	Kældersnegle.....	36
<i>Gastropoda</i> div.....	Snegle div.....	36
Amphibia	Padder	4
Lamellibranchiata	Muslinger	
<i>Teredo navalis</i>	Pæleorm.....	4
Reptilia	Krybdyr	2
Aves	Fugle	
* <i>Columba livia domestica</i>	Tamdue.....	68
<i>Pica pica</i>	Husskade.....	2
<i>Aves</i> div.....	Fugle div.....	10
Mammalia	Pattedyr	
<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>	Halsbåndmus.....	76
* <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Mosegris.....	411
<i>Chiroptera</i> spp.....	Flagermus.....	8
<i>Felis domestica</i>	Huskat.....	5
* <i>Martes foina</i>	Husmår.....	316
* <i>Muridae</i>	Mus.....	332
<i>Mustela putoris</i>	Ilder.....	3
<i>Mustela putorius</i>	Ilder.....	4
* <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Brun rotte.....	159
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Egern.....	7
* <i>Talpa europaea</i>	Muldvarp.....	268
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Ræv.....	28
<i>Mammalia</i> div.....	Pattedyr div.....	45
Various animals	Diverse dyr	128
Imaginary animals	Indbildte dyr	49
Pesticides	Bekæmpelsesmidler	139
Sundries	Diverse	277

5.2 Some of the cases and characteristic variations in the number of inquiries in 2000

In the year 2000 the laboratory received fewer inquiries in general than previously. With the exception of hornets this was the case for all the species normally asked about. The reason for this might be the fact that 40 of the most demanded leaflets which describe different pests are available on the Internet. Nearly 45,000 Internet visitors have been registered during the year.

The number of inquiries concerning **headlice** (*Pediculus capitis*) showed a downward tendency for the first time in many years. Nevertheless it is not the impression of the laboratory that problems with headlice have decreased. The reason might be that DPIL has worked out a comprehensive leaflet in co-operation with the National Board of Health and the Danish Medicines Agency with answers to most questions about headlice. This leaflet is the most frequently visited site on the DPIL Homepage.

In May there was an unusually high number of enquiries from people who experienced an invasion of **clover mites** (*Bryobia preaetiosa*). Clover mites feed on sap which they suck out of grasses and clover. Sometimes these mites can appear in large numbers on lawns. In the spring when the weather gets warm, the mites migrate and when they meet a house they often enter it through cracks. The clover mites are harmless to humans and houses, but their big numbers often frighten people.

Compared to last year the number of inquiries about **mice** (Muridae) decreased a lot. The reason may either be that there have been fewer mice or the fact that information on mice now is available on the DPIL homepage. It is the laboratory's impression that even though the number of inquiries about mice has been very low, there has been an increasing amount of questions concerning the **yellow-necked field mouse** (*Apodemus flavicollis*). This fact was also pointed out last year, but in most cases it was not possible to establish it with certainty.

In July the laboratory received an inquiry from residents of a new building who were annoyed by mites indoors. An inspection in the building revealed that the mites were *Klemania plumosus* belonging to the family **Gamasidae**. These mites eat mainly mould fungus and consequently live in places with high humidity. Further inspection showed that the mites probably came from dried plant material that was used for insulation under the floors. Similar problems with these mites have been reported in foreign literature. When the buildings dry out, the mites disappear. The worst nuisance could be relieved by heating the buildings and by spraying with pyrethrin.

In the spring and in particular in the autumn there were several inquiries about **Grass Flies** (*Thaumatomyia notata*) than ever since 1993. In the autumn this little fly can gather in large numbers and enter buildings in their search for a place to overwinter. In spring when they leave their wintering places, they can cause a nuisance inside houses. The flies are harmless to people and buildings.