

## 5. Advisory work

### 5.1 Number of inquiries arranged by species

In 2001 DPIL answered approximately 8300 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, 65% were telephone calls, 26% were letters (with animals enclosed for identification), 5% were e-mails and 4% visits to the laboratory. Many were answered by 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 higher priority at the laboratory. The subject of most of the visits was 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*), carpet beetles (*Anthrenus spp.*), the indian meal moth (*Plodia interpunctella*), the dermestid beetle (*Attagenus smirnovi*), mice (*Muridae*), the stone marten (*Martes foina*) and the water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*). Together these ten subjects made up 36% of the total number of inquiries.

During 2000 and 2001 information about more than 50 different animals were placed on the laboratory's homepage ([www.dpil.dk](http://www.dpil.dk)). In 2001 the laboratory observed more than 107,000 visits to pages concerning these animals. This fact explains without a doubt why the number of telephone calls concerning pest problems has decreased over the last two years. The pests on the homepage asked for most frequently were headlice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*), the water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*), the common furniture beetle (*Anobium punctatum*), the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), the common black ant (*Lasius niger*), the hornet (*Paravespula spp.*), mice (*Muridae*), the mole (*Talpa europaea*), pests on textiles (*Tinea pellionella* and *Tineola bisselliella*) and the stone marten (*Martes foina*). Together these ten pests made up approximately 50% of the pages asked for.

In Table 5a, the inquiries to the laboratory 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 2001

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.

<b>Thysanura</b>		<b>Børstehaler</b>	
* <i>Lepisma saccharina</i> .....		Sølvkræ.....	72
* <i>Thermobia domestica</i> .....		Ovnfisk.....	3
* <b>Collembola</b> .....		<b>Springhaler</b> .....	14
<b>Orthoptera</b>		<b>Retvinger</b>	
* <i>Acheta domestica</i> .....		Husfårekylning.....	9
* <i>Tachysines asynamorus</i> .....		Væksthusgræshoppe.....	1
<b>Blattaria</b>		<b>Kakerlakker</b>	
<i>Blatta orientalis</i> .....		Orientalisk kakerlak.....	3
* <i>Blattella germanica</i> .....		Tysk kakerlak.....	49
<i>Ectobius laponica</i> .....		Skovkakerlak.....	2
<i>Periplaneta americana</i> .....		Amerikansk kakerlak.....	1
<i>Pycnoscelus surinamensis</i> .....			1
* <i>Supella longipalpa</i> .....		Brunstribet kakerlak.....	1
<i>Blattaria</i> div. ....		Kakerlakker div.....	48
<b>Isoptera</b> .....		<b>Termitter</b> .....	2
<b>Dermaptera</b>		<b>Ørentviste</b>	
* <i>Forficula auricularia</i> .....		Alm. ørentvist.....	16
* <b>Copeognatha</b> .....		<b>Støvlus</b> .....	156
<b>Mallophaga</b> .....		<b>Pelslus og fjerlus</b> .....	1
<b>Siphunculata</b>		<b>Lus</b>	
* <i>Pediculus capitis</i> .....		Hovedlus.....	276
<i>Pediculus corporis</i> .....		Kropslus.....	3
* <i>Phthirus pubis</i> .....		Fladlus.....	2
* <b>Thysanoptera</b> .....		<b>Thrips</b> .....	36
<b>Hemiptera</b>		<b>Næbmunde</b>	
* <i>Cimex lectularius</i> .....		Væggelus.....	118
* <i>Reduvius personatus</i> .....		Støvtæge.....	9
<i>Hemiptera</i> div.....		Tæger, bladlus, cikader div.....	25
<b>Neuroptera</b>		<b>Netvinger</b>	
* <i>Chrysopa</i> spp.....		Guldøjer.....	20
<b>Lepidoptera</b>		<b>Sommerfugle</b>	
* <i>Aphomia sociella</i> .....		Humlevoksmøl.....	54
* <i>Caradrina clavipalpes</i> .....		Tagorm.....	2
* <i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i> .....		Klistermøl.....	15

* <i>Ephestia elutella</i> .....	Kakaomøl .....	3
* <i>Ephestia kuehniella</i> .....	Melmøl .....	18
* <i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i> .....	Frømøl .....	57
* <i>Plodia interpunctella</i> .....	Tofarvet frømøl .....	334
* <i>Tinea pellionella</i> .....	Pelsmøl .....	15
* <i>Tineola bisselliella</i> .....	Klædemøl .....	68
* <i>Lepidoptera</i> div. ....	Sommerfugle div. ....	98

**Coleoptera****Biller**

* <i>Alphitobius diaperinus</i> .....	Lille melbille .....	1
<i>Amphimallon solstitiale</i> .....	Sankthansoldenborre .....	5
* <i>Anobium punctatum</i> .....	Alm. borebille .....	322
* <i>Anoplodera rubra</i> .....	Rød blomsterbuk .....	16
* <i>Anthrenus</i> spp .....	Tæppebiller .....	194
* <i>Attagenus pellio</i> .....	Pelsklanner .....	7
* <i>Attagenus smirnovi</i> .....	Brun pelsklanner .....	283
<i>Attagenus woodroffe</i> .....	Båndet pelsklanner .....	2
<i>Bostrychidae</i> .....	Bostrychider .....	1
<i>Bruchidae</i> .....	Bønnebille .....	5
* <i>Callidium violaceum</i> .....	Violbuk .....	14
* <i>Carabidae</i> .....	Løbebiller .....	52
<i>Carpophilinae</i> .....	Tørfrugtbiller .....	3
<i>Cerambycidae</i> .....	Træbukke .....	19
<i>Clytus arietis</i> .....	Hvepsebuk .....	2
<i>Coccinellidae</i> .....	Mariehøns .....	2
<i>Corynetes coeruleus</i> .....	Skinkebille .....	2
* <i>Criocephalus rusticus</i> .....	Brun træbuk .....	15
<i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i> .....	Rustfarvet kornbille .....	4
* <i>Cryptophagus</i> spp. ....	Skimmelbiller .....	13
* <i>Dermestes haemorrhoidalis</i> .....	Husklanner .....	68
* <i>Dermestes lardarius</i> .....	Flæskeklanner .....	37
* <i>Ernobius mollis</i> .....	Blød borebille .....	5
<i>Europhryum confine</i> .....	Boresnudebille .....	6
* <i>Hadrobregmus pertinax</i> .....	Rådborebille .....	20
* <i>Hylesinus fraxini</i> .....	Askebarkbille .....	3
* <i>Hylobius abietis</i> .....	Nåletræssnudebille .....	5
* <i>Hylotrupes bajulus</i> .....	Husbuk .....	13
* <i>Lasioderma serricorne</i> .....	Tobaksbille .....	24
* <i>Lyctus</i> spp .....	Splintvedbiller .....	4
<i>Melolontha melolontha</i> .....	Alm. oldenborre .....	5
* <i>Nacerdes melanura</i> .....	Bolværksbille .....	6
<i>Necrobia</i> spp .....	Koprabiller .....	1
<i>Niptus hololeucus</i> .....	Messingtyv .....	1
<i>Nitidula bipunctata</i> .....	.....	1
* <i>Ocypus olens</i> .....	Stor rovbille .....	1
<i>Opilo domesticus</i> .....	Huspræstebille .....	1
<i>Oryctes nasicornis</i> .....	Næsehorns bille .....	5
<i>Oryzaephilus mercator</i> .....	Jordnøddebille .....	24
* <i>Oryzaephilus surinamensis</i> .....	Savtakket kornbille .....	24
* <i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i> .....	Væksthussnudebille .....	24
* <i>Otiorhynchus</i> spp .....	Øresnudebille .....	25
* <i>Phyllopertha horticola</i> .....	Gåsebille .....	16
* <i>Phymatodes testaceus</i> .....	Bøgebuk .....	33

<i>Ptinus pectinicornis</i> .....	Kamhornet borebille.....	1
<i>Ptinus fur</i> .....	Alm. tyvbille .....	6
* <i>Ptinus tectus</i> .....	Australsk tyvbille .....	3
* <i>Reesa vespulae</i> .....	Amerikansk klanner .....	6
<i>Scolytidae</i> .....	Barkbiller .....	29
<i>Serica brunnea</i> .....	Natoldenborre.....	6
* <i>Sitona lineatus</i> .....	Stribet bladrandbille .....	4
* <i>Sitophilus granarius</i> .....	Kornsnudebille .....	40
* <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> .....	Rissnudebille .....	35
<i>Sitophilus zea-mais</i> .....	Majssnudebille .....	2
* <i>Staphyllinidae</i> .....	Rovbiller.....	19
* <i>Stegobium paniceum</i> .....	Brødbille.....	117
* <i>Tenebrio molitor</i> .....	Melbille .....	33
<i>Thylotrias contractus</i> .....	Larveklanner .....	2
<i>Tribolium castaneum</i> .....	Kastaniebrun rismelbille .....	2
* <i>Tribolium confusum</i> .....	Rismelbille .....	30
<i>Trogoderma angustum</i> .....	Smal frøklanner .....	4
<i>Coleoptera</i> div.....	Biller div. ....	87
<b>Hymenoptera</b>	<b>Årevinger</b>	
* <i>Andrena</i> spp.....	Jordbier.....	25
* <i>Apis mellifica</i> .....	Honningbi.....	27
* <i>Bombus</i> spp. ....	Humblebier.....	65
* <i>Camponotus</i> spp. ....	Herkulesmyrer .....	20
* <i>Colletes daviesanus</i> .....	Murbi.....	118
<i>Formicidae</i> .....	Myrer.....	132
<i>Formica rufa</i> .....	Rød skovmyre .....	30
* <i>Lasius fuliginosus</i> .....	Orangemyre.....	15
* <i>Lasius niger</i> .....	Sort havemyre .....	202
* <i>Lasius umbratus and others</i> .....	"Gule myrer" .....	21
* <i>Monomorium pharaonis</i> .....	Faraomyre .....	15
* <i>Osmia</i> spp. ....	Murerbier .....	13
* <i>Paravespula</i> spp. ....	Gedehamse .....	888
* <i>Siricidae</i> .....	Træhvepse .....	9
<i>Sphecoidae</i> .....	Gravehvepse .....	15
<i>Tetramorium caespitum</i> .....	Græstørvsmyrer .....	2
* <i>Vespa crabro</i> .....	Stor gedehams .....	11
<i>Hymenoptera</i> div.....	Årevinger div .....	74
<b>Diptera</b>	<b>Tovinger</b>	
<i>Bibionidae</i> .....	Hårmyg.....	4
<i>Borboridae</i> .....	Springfluer .....	4
* <i>Calliphoridae</i> .....	Spyfluer .....	71
* <i>Ceratopogonidae</i> .....	Mitter.....	9
<i>Chironomidae</i> .....	Dansemyg.....	4
* <i>Culicidae</i> .....	Stikmyg .....	16
* <i>Drosophila</i> spp. ....	Bananfluer .....	87
<i>Eristalis</i> spp. ....	Dyndfluer .....	1
* <i>Fannia canicularis</i> .....	Lille stueflue.....	23
<i>Musca autumnalis</i> .....	Kvægflue .....	2
* <i>Musca domestica</i> .....	Stueflue .....	51
* <i>Mycetophilidae</i> .....	Svampemyg.....	30
* <i>Ornithomyia</i> spp.....	Lusfluer .....	9

<i>Phoridae</i> .....	Pukkelfluer .....	7
* <i>Pollenia</i> spp.....	Klyngefluer .....	29
* <i>Psychodidae</i> .....	Sommerfuglemyg.....	33
* <i>Simuliidae</i> .....	Kvægmyg .....	1
<i>Stomoxys calcitrans</i> .....	Stikflue .....	7
<i>Syrphidae</i> .....	Svirrefluer .....	1
* <i>Tabanidae</i> .....	Klæger .....	5
* <i>Thaumatomyia notata</i> .....	Græsflue .....	15
<i>Tipulidae</i> .....	Stankelben .....	5
<i>Diptera</i> div. ....	Tovinger div. ....	94
<b>Siphonaptera</b>	<b>Lopper</b>	
* <i>Ceratophyllus</i> spp.....	Fuglelopper .....	60
* <i>Ctenocephalides</i> spp.....	Katte- og hundelopper .....	176
<i>Ceratophyllus (Monopsyllus)</i> <i>sciurorum sciurorum</i> .....	Egernloppe .....	3
* <i>Pulex irritans</i> .....	Menneskeloppe .....	2
<i>Siphonaptera</i> div. ....	Lopper div. ....	52
Pests on textiles .....	Tekstilskadedyr .....	183
Pests in food .....	Kolonialskadedyr .....	30
Pests in wood.....	Træskadedyr .....	41
<b>Various insects</b> .....	<b>Diverse insekter</b> .....	62
<b>Acarina</b>	<b>Mider</b>	
* <i>Acarus siro</i> .....	Melmide .....	13
* <i>Argas reflexus</i> .....	Duemide .....	7
* <i>Bryobia praetiosa</i> .....	Brunmide.....	32
<i>Carpoglyphus lactis</i> .....	Sveskemide .....	1
* <i>Cheyletiella</i> spp. ....	Pelsmider.....	4
* <i>Dermanyssus</i> spp.....	Fuglemider .....	20
* <i>Dermatophagoides</i> spp.....	Husstøvmider .....	3
<i>Gamasidae</i> .....	Gamasider .....	2
* <i>Glycyphagus domesticus</i> .....	Husmide .....	8
* <i>Ixodes ricinus</i> .....	Skovflåt .....	64
<i>Ixodes uriae</i> .....	Lundelus .....	1
<i>Oribatidae</i> .....	Pansermider.....	2
<i>Ornithonyssus bacoti</i> .....	Tropisk rottemide .....	1
* <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> .....	Husflåt .....	3
* <i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i> .....	Fnatmide.....	9
* Mites in grain, straw and hay .....	Lagermider .....	4
<i>Acarina</i> div. ....	Mider div. ....	28
* <b>Araneae</b> .....	<b>Edderkopper</b> .....	50
* <b>Pseudoscorpiones</b> .....	<b>Mosskorpioner</b> .....	5
* <b>Diplopoda</b> .....	<b>Ægte tusindben</b> .....	69
<b>Chilopoda</b>	<b>Skolopendre</b>	
<i>Chilopoda</i> div. ....	Skolopendre div. ....	9

* <b>Oniscoidea</b> .....	<b>Bænkebidere</b> .....	75
<b>Oligochaeta</b>	<b>Sadelbørsteorme</b>	
<i>Lumbricidae</i> .....	Regnorme .....	8
<b>Gastropoda</b>	<b>Snegle</b>	
<i>Arion lusitanicus</i> .....	Iberisk skovsnegl .....	20
* <i>Limacidae</i> .....	Kældersnegle .....	27
<i>Gastropoda</i> div. ....	Snegle div. ....	44
<b>Amphibia</b> .....	<b>Padder</b> .....	3
<b>Reptilia</b> .....	<b>Krybdyr</b> .....	5
<b>Aves</b>	<b>Fugle</b>	
* <i>Columba livia domestica</i> .....	Tamdue .....	66
<i>Aves</i> div. ....	Fugle div. ....	18
<b>Mammalia</b>	<b>Pattedyr</b>	
<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i> .....	Halsbåndmus .....	88
* <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> .....	Mosegris .....	187
<i>Chiroptera</i> spp. ....	Flagermus .....	21
<i>Felis domestica</i> .....	Huskat .....	3
* <i>Martes foina</i> .....	Husmår .....	214
* <i>Muridae</i> .....	Mus .....	276
<i>Mustela putoris</i> .....	Ilder .....	2
* <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> .....	Brun rotte .....	141
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> .....	Egern .....	3
* <i>Talpa europaea</i> .....	Muldvarp .....	105
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> .....	Ræv .....	14
<i>Mammalia</i> div. ....	Pattedyr div. ....	24
<b>Various animals</b> .....	<b>Diverse dyr</b> .....	153
<b>Imaginary animals</b> .....	<b>Indbildte dyr</b> .....	103
<b>Pesticides</b> .....	<b>Bekæmpelsesmidler</b> .....	97
<b>Sundries</b> .....	<b>Diverse</b> .....	221

## 5.2 Some of the cases and characteristic variations in the number of inquiries in 2001

In the year 2001 the laboratory received fewer inquiries in general than previously. The reason might be that the leaflets most in demand which describe different pests are available on our Homepage. This means that our statistics concerning inquiries about the individual animals will be more unreliable in the future. The number of questions received by DPIL concerning animals showed no characteristic fluctuations in 2001.

As in the past few years there were a lot of telephone calls about **Diplopoda**. The animals were seen in very large numbers crawling along buildings outside and sometimes they were also seen indoors. These numerous appearances often lasted a few days only. There is still no explanation why this happen.

One of the most common pests in food in private homes were the **Indian meal moth** (*Plodia interpunctella*). A tenant in an apartment in Copenhagen complained several times to the gas company that her gas cooker did not function. A thorough inspection revealed that small white larvae had occupied the tiny holes in the gas cooker preventing the gas from coming out. Larvae were sent to the laboratory and proved to be Indian meal moths.

In 2001, a firm making company Christmas presents also had problems with Indian meal moths. Part of the company's assortment contained various kinds of nuts and chocolate sweets. The laboratory made an inspection and found developing larvae of the Indian meal moth in a lot of the products. Flying moths were seen in nearly all of the rooms and halls of the company. A plan involving clear-up of infected articles, cleaning, chemical treatment, a monitoring programme, stock flow and storage facilities was implemented.

Many citizens experience strange noises sounding like gnawing inside the furniture which they have just bought. Often the furniture is made of foreign wood, and in this wood various species of wood-boring insects from the country of origin are built into the furniture. Although this is very upsetting, the wood-boring insects will normally do no further harm once they have hatched from the wood. The year 2001 resulted in two cases of bore dust from **termites**. The first one took place in a floor in an almost newly built apartment and the other one in a sofa. Neither of the cases showed any sign of live termites so they probably already lived in the wood when the floor and the sofa were made.

In August, the laboratory received a call from a hall of residence where strange noises could be heard from the loft of the building. An inspection did not reveal any traces of stone martens, mice or rats which are often the culprits when people hear noises from the loft. The discovery of faeces showed that the noise-making animals were **squirrels**. It is remarkably rare that the laboratory registers activity of squirrels inside buildings.

A.-M. Rasmussen