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on sticky traps with the result that no Clothes moth or similar have been detected since.

Final comments

It was surprising to have such an established infestation in the affected gallery, especially as at the time the infestation was discovered the gallery was only a year old. Generally it takes about a year for a clothes moth generation to appear (Pinniger 1994), and this one was well established. The feeling is that the infestation was introduced with the construction of the gallery, possibly in one of the bird nests, a point to consider more carefully in future gallery construction projects.

Overall it was felt that the use of the pheromone lures resulted in successful pest control with limited pesticide application. It also demonstrated that the clothes moth pheromone lures have great potential as part of a general monitoring programme, especially in little used storage areas.

References

- Busvine, J.R. 1980. *Insects and hygiene*. Chapman and Hall.
- Pinniger, D. 1994. *Insect Pests in museums*. Archetype Publications
- Zycherman, L.A and Schrock, J.R. 1988. *A guide to museum pest*

control. American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and The Association of Systematic Collections. Washington DC USA.

Suppliers

Pheromone lures
Insects Limited Incorporated,
obtainable from:
Historyonics
17 Talbot Street
Pontcanna
Cardiff CF1 9BW
Tel 01222 398943

Sticky Traps
Historyonics
as above

AgriSense-BCS Ltd.
Pontypridd
Mid Glamorgan CF37 5SU
Tel: 01443 841155

Pesticides

Many available, but a good recommendation is an water based permethrin spray which has become available since this infestation occurred. This is called Constrain and is available from Historyonics (contact address above).

Julian Carter
Conservation Officer
National Museum and Galleries of
Wales

Insect Pest Control in Collections Course

Since graduating with an MA in the Conservation of Fine Arts, Works on Paper, from the University of Northumbria at the end of August, I have been working as an intern in the Paper Conservation Section at the NMGM Conservation Centre, Liverpool. In the new year I will be starting my new job as Conservator with West Yorkshire Archives Service in Wakefield.


While at Liverpool I was fortunate to receive a bursary from 'International Academic Projects' in London to attend the above course at the Liverpool Museum on the 4th and 5th December.

The two-day course was an informative, lively and practical introduction to the prevention, monitoring and handling of infestations. This is a problem or issue that I am almost guaranteed to come across, to a greater or lesser extent, throughout my career as a paper conservator. David Pinniger, Tracey Seddon and Steve Judd lead excellent informative, visual and interactive sessions focussing on key areas such as pest identification, eradication and health and safety. A useful resource pack was also provided

which will be my first port of call on the subject in the future. By working in teams (and so getting to know other professionals in related fields) and looking at real specimens and environments, simulated hands-on experience was gained which will translate well into a real situation. Indeed, with my newly acquired knowledge I was recently able to identify part of a larva case from a previously infested leather and fabric miniature case I am treating. Finally, this course provided the ideal beginning to my own Continuous Professional Development at the outset of my career as a paper conservator, and one which will be a hard act to follow.

Shirley Thomas

Paper Conservation, The
Conservation Centre, Liverpool



Insect Pests at Willis and other Hampshire Museums, 1996-7.

In my Springtime editorials I was always warning about ingress of pest beetles and moths, and although the biology collections at Hampshire County Council Museum Service have remained largely insect free, taxidermy specimens on static