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## Dust Mite Allergen Found in Day Care Centers

*Reuters*

*03 Oct 2001*

New York- If a study out of Tampa, Fla. is any indication, day care centers around the nation may harbor high levels of dust mite allergens.

Dr. Richard F. Lockey of the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Tampa and colleagues analyzed dust and air samples at 20 different day care centers for dust mites, cat and cockroach allergens. Allergens are particles capable of producing an allergic reaction.

While these allergens were all present in several of the day care centers, mite allergen concentrations exceeded levels associated with sensitization and symptoms in nearly half of the day care centers, the researchers report in the October issue of the *Journal Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*.

Forty percent of the day care centers had dust mite allergen in dust samples and 80% of the centers had the allergen in air samples. The samples taken during the day, when the centers

were most active, contained the highest levels of dust mite allergen.

The reason that such findings are cause for concern is that "allergen exposure in early childhood is a risk factor for sensitization and development of asthma," the authors report.

One factor that may have contributed to the high levels of dust mite allergen was the fact that 16 of the day care centers had wall-to-wall carpeting, the researchers note. This floor covering is known to trap dust. "The removal of carpets in day care centers has been recommended to avoid the accumulation of dust and allergens," Lockey and colleagues write.

Studies in animals suggest that there is an increased risk of becoming allergic to certain substances in the air when an animal is exposed to them shortly after birth. Similarly, in children, development of allergies to house dust mites--microscopic creatures often found in large quantities inside homes--has been linked to the extent of early exposure to the mites.

This suggests that taking steps to aggressively control dust mites in homes may reduce the occurrence of dust mite allergy in

children, according to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

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## EPA Ordered to Assess Pesticide Health Risks

*San Francisco Chronicle*

01 Oct 2001

SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco federal judge, acting over the objections of pesticide manufacturers and farm groups, has approved a nationwide settlement between environmentalists and the Bush administration, speeding up a review of pesticides in the food supply.

The settlement requires the Environmental Protection Agency to reassess by next August the possible dangers of 39 commonly used insecticides called organophosphates. The reassessment could lead to restrictions or bans.

Another provision of the settlement requires a review over the next year of whether certain types of insecticides and weed-killers react together in drinking water to become long-term poisons.

The settlement also requires measures to protect farmworkers from three insecticides -- azinphos methyl, chlorpyrifos and diazinon.

The 1999 lawsuit accused the EPA of ignoring legal deadlines to reassess the risks of numerous pesticides. It was settled by the outgoing Clinton administration on Jan. 19, its last day in office. President Bush's EPA administrator, Christie Whitman, approved the agreement in March, with minor changes, at the same time she was repudiating Clinton standards for reducing arsenic in drinking water.

The agreement was challenged by the American Crop Protection Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation and other trade groups. They said it had been adopted too hastily and without their participation, was based on unsound science and would cause serious economic harm.

But U.S. District Judge William Alsup, in a ruling made public yesterday, said the settlement was "fair, reasonable, equitable and in the public interest."

He said the provisions, adopted after extensive public comment, were consistent with Congress' intention to hasten review of the most dangerous pesticides. Opponents can sue later to contest any restrictions ordered by the EPA, Alsup said.

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## The Importance of Educating our Customers

The following situations really happened. They are perfect

examples of why it is so important to know how to educate our customers — whether you are an office employee, a general pest control technician, termite technician or salesperson.

**Case #1.** A technician rounds the corner of the house and thinks to himself, "Boy, am I glad this 'trench and treat' is almost finished. What a backbreaking job!" He then glanced up at the front door of the treated home. An elderly man appeared wearing an oxygen mask and carrying a portable oxygen tank. OOPS!

*Lesson learned.* Shame on the salesman for not asking if there were any health problems prior to selling a liquid termite job. Shame on the technician for not inspecting the home prior to the treatment. A simple knock on the door could have prevented this incident from happening.

**Case #2.** A pest management salesman followed up on a lead for a termite bait. In talking with the potential customer, the salesman was amazed to hear the man complain about a broken sprinkler system that came with his new house: "Those green sprinkler heads just won't sprinkle; make sure your termite bait product works better than the sprinklers." You guessed it, those "sprinklers" were the termite bait system that came with the house! *Lesson learned.* Shame on the office personnel for not determining that the termite bait lead had previously been under

contract. Shame on the pest control company for not properly explaining the bait system to the new homeowner.

**Case #3.** An excited customer calls the office and shouts, "The babies are here, the babies have come! Please have my pest control technician come and spray my house now!" The office manager says they can't treat the home with "babies" in the house. After a few more questions, the office manager determined that the technician had told his customer to call when she saw baby cockroaches!

*Lesson learned.* Shame on the technician for not explaining the biology of the cockroach to the proud owner of the "babies." The "babies" should have been called cockroach nymphs.

**Case #4.** An agitated customer asks his termite technician (who was treating with baits) when he is going to clean out the "termite traps" because they are full of dirt.

*Lesson learned.* Shame on the termite technician for not explaining the termite bait system completely. The termite traps are the monitoring devices and should not be touched by the homeowner.

**Case #5.** A general pest customer calls and complains to the office manager that the technician promised to control ladybugs. Ladybugs are now covering the side of the house!

*Lesson learned.* Shame on the technician for promising to rid a home of ladybugs or any other pest for that matter. A treatment will reduce the problem, but not totally eradicate it.

**WHY WE MUST TEACH.**

Service technicians have had to change from "spray jockeys" to pest management specialists who perform inspections, conduct interviews and then educate the customer prior to treating.

Office personnel, technicians, and salespeople must be able to relate to a well-educated public — a public that can surf the Internet and find out about diseases such as hantavirus. Technicians must be able to identify the pest and pass on their findings. In other words, respond with answers like, "Ma'am that is not a deer mouse, but a house mouse, which is not able to spread hantavirus."

Pest control companies must educate their employees to be able to answer customer questions about the dangers with brown recluse and black widow spiders. They should never give customers "guarantees" when it comes to potential health-related pests like spiders. One lawsuit from a brown recluse spider bite victim can put a small pest control company out of business.

**HOW TO EDUCATE.** Many great methods for educating our customers are being successfully used by pest control companies today. A checklist for salespeople or office personnel selling jobs

should contain health-related questions. A service alert from your company should prevent liquid termite treatments and mechanical alterations should then be recommended.

Treatments for customers with certain health risks should also be covered by a service alert preventing any inside liquid treatment. The educated pest management employee should be able to relate this information to the customer. The company should put this information in writing and give it to their employees. There could be in-house training sessions where technicians play out their interactions with customers.

Another helpful education checklist that can help prevent future pest problems with our customers deals with customer responsibilities. It educates the customer to trim the trees that touch the house, caulk the cable holes, clean the clogged gutters, remove standing water in tires, trim bushes that touch the home, remove competitive food sources, etc. The technician shouldn't say, "Ma'am, you are a horrible housekeeper!" Instead, they should say something like, "Ma'am, my roach bait is having trouble attracting roaches because of yummy food all over the kitchen counter — the roaches like your food better than my bait"

*Use The Product Label.* It is reassuring to know that a product registered by EPA as a General Use Label (as opposed to a

Restricted Use Label) will not harm the employee, your customer or the environment if used according to the label. Among other things, the label will tell the technician how to mix and apply the material, how long to stay off the surface where it has been applied and any unusual precautions or exclusions. Does the material used on a flea treatment specify how long to stay off the carpet? Usually not — so how long should the technician tell the customer to stay off the carpet? We cannot make recommendations that are not on the label. I heard the following test method suggested.

A technician could say, "Ma'am why don't I leave a paper towel by the entry way. You can take the paper towel and place it on the carpet when you reenter your home. Then step on it — if you see your footprint, the carpet is not dry enough."

**CONCLUSION.** When we educate our customers we contribute to keeping that customer satisfied and the company financially healthy; this, in turn, will keep you gainfully employed. However, to achieve this level of customer satisfaction, our technicians, salespeople and office employees also need to be kept "educated!"

## LiphaTech Online Offers Interactive Solutions

*PestWeb*

MILWAUKEE, WIS.— LiphaTech's new www.rodent-control.com site offers interactive features to help pest management professionals (PMPs) select their rodent tools based on the individual situation's needs. Users are asked to specify pest, environment (indoors, outdoors or both), application site (residential, industrial, institutional, etc.) and state. A program then analyzes the information and recommends products.

The site also offers in-depth discussion of the species most commonly associated with infestations and the best ways to combat them. Handy links lead users to other pages of interest, including a site map, frequently asked questions, company background, distributors, partners, job openings, contact information, material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and a veterinary guide.

## First Case of West Nile Virus in Dogs Found in Georgia

*The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge, GA 29 Sep 2001*

The focus to date on West Nile Virus has been on birds, horses

and humans, but now dogs are added to the list. A local veterinarian, Dr. David Bryan of Bryan and Hight Veterinary Clinic, received results this week that a blood sample of a dog he treated earlier in the month had come back positive for the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. The virus is spread by migrating birds, which are in turn bitten by mosquitoes, and those in turn transmit the virus to horses, humans, and [other animals such as] dogs.

Several cases of WNV in horses have been diagnosed in the North Florida/South Georgia area since the virus 'headed south' earlier this year, and a dead osprey collected in the Lake Douglas area tested positive. But this is the first case of WNV in a dog.

Dr. Bryan said he had just attended a seminar on WNV in Tifton where the Serology Department at the UGA diagnostic lab in Tifton presented a list of 8 clinical signs of WNV in horses. The dog he treated showed 6 of the 8. Dr. Bryan said the dog was an otherwise-healthy two and one-half-year-old male Labrador whose owners live just across Lake Seminole near Sneads, Fla. When he was brought in, the dog was drooling, appeared to feel bad, had facial tics in the muzzle-area muscles, and his left ear was drawn up toward the top of his head. His vision appeared to be impaired, his appetite was poor and his temperature was up. All in all, Bryan said, he showed signs of a central nervous system problem.

In-house lab work was reasonably unremarkable, so blood samples were sent to Tifton for screening, including Eastern and Western equine encephalitis and West Nile virus. The encephalitis screenings were negative, but the WNV was positive. Dr. Bryan said veterinarians had thought that dogs would not be affected by WNV.

Bryan had begun treating the dog with chloramphenicol, an old broad-spectrum antibiotic which the doctor says he has used for years. He explained that this medicine will cross the blood-brain barrier and might have some anti-viral properties as well. The human version, chloromycetin, had been off the market for some time. The great news is that the dog was well enough to go home in 3 or 4 days and reached full recovery about 5 days after that.

Dr. Bryan said while there are WNV vaccines for horses, there are none yet for dogs, and he has contacted a pharmaceutical company which produces horse vaccine to see if a dog vaccine is forthcoming.

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## What's the Buzz? Yellowjackets in the Schoolyard

*University of Florida School IPM*

Yellowjackets can cause problems around schools. Although they are often

beneficial, preying on other insects, they can sting many times if provoked. In this way, yellowjackets differ from bees, which sting only once.

Yellowjackets will aggressively defend their nest if it is disturbed.

Yellowjackets have either black and yellow or black and white stripes. They are fast fliers and are more aggressive than other wasps. When yellowjacket numbers peak in late summer or early fall, they become pests. Garbage, lunch counters and playgrounds attract yellowjackets looking for food sources.

Usually, yellowjackets foraging for food won't sting unless they are physically threatened. But if someone steps on an underground nest opening or disturbs a nest in a shrub or building, yellowjackets are likely to sting many times. Look for nests in the ground, under eaves and in wall voids. Wasps often build ground nests under shrubs, logs, piles of rocks and other protected sites.

Garbage containers on school grounds should have tight-fitting lids and be emptied frequently. Lids, containers and Dumpsters should be cleaned often with a strong stream of water. Repair windows and screens and caulk holes in siding to prevent yellowjackets from establishing nests inside a building. Nest removal and trapping can significantly reduce yellowjacket populations. It is best to have a pest control operator with

experience in stinging insects remove nests.

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## Ouch! Avoiding, Treating Yellowjacket Stings

*University of Florida School IPM*

### Avoiding yellowjacket stings

- Above all, stay calm. Move slowly so the insect won't feel threatened.
- If a yellowjacket lands on you, carefully brush it off or simply wait for it to fly away. Hitting it may cause it to sting.
- Do not smash a yellowjacket. Crushing one may cause others in the area to attack.
- Before you take a sip of your fruit juice or soda, look inside your cup. Yellowjackets are attracted to the sugary liquids. It is a good idea to use a straw and keep a lid on your drink at all times.

### First aid for stings

**If the sting is in the mouth or throat**, call 911 immediately and apply ice. Swelling in those areas can cause suffocation.

**Hypersensitive people** should be taken to an emergency room. This includes anyone who

experiences dizziness, respiratory reactions or color changes. An antihistamine such as Benadryl can slow symptoms if it is given immediately. Keep the body part that was stung above the heart.

**For all others**, general first aid principles apply. Wash the area around the sting and apply antiseptic. This removes some of the venom. Apply ice or commercial products designed to relieve the pain of stings. You can also apply a paste of meat tenderizer and water, which breaks down the venom, easing pain and swelling.

Antihistamines can offer some relief from pain and swelling, as well. After a sting, the victim should rest. Do not use sedatives.  
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## Wisconsin Farmer Believes in Genetically Modified Crops

*Gempler's IPM*

Three years ago, Wisconsin farmer Bill Rohloff decided to grow genetically modified corn and soybeans on 10 percent of his land as an experiment.

Today, 30 to 40 percent of his land consists of genetically modified crops, and he is a strong advocate for the technology. He says he was inspired after hearing all of the negative publicity surrounding that type of farming.

"If people don't realize what's going on, and where their food supply comes from, we might not have very many farmers left in this country," says Rohloff, whose farm is located near Fort Atkinson, southeast of Madison, Wisconsin. "With all of the negative publicity about biotechnology, and groups such as Greenpeace trying to relay a lot of negativity to this, I felt more farmers should speak up and say, 'Hey, there are more benefits to this technology than there are negatives, and we do need to keep this.'"

Opponents have claimed that genetically engineered (GE) products are not healthy for humans.

Rohloff says that his GE corn resists damage from the European corn borer and other insect pests, and that he treats his soybeans with Roundup Ready®, a chemical that kills off perennial weeds and decomposes naturally in the soil. He sells his crops to local grain elevators near his farm.

### Higher yields and lower pesticide use

Rohloff says the GE program has made farming a lot easier and more cost-effective. "I'm spending less time scouting for insects in corn, and with the Roundup Ready® program, I would say I spend less time scouting for weeds," he says.

"Overall, it's peace of mind knowing that you have

something out there controlling insects naturally and knowing that you are going to control all the weeds in a field of beans, instead of just some. It does make it just plain easy."

Rohloff says his genetically modified crops have also meant more money in his pocket. For example, he says he has gained an average of five to six bushels per acre on his corn crop. He says he no longer needs to apply pesticides, which used to cost him at least \$15 to \$20 an acre.

"I think what people don't realize is the millions of pounds of insecticides and pesticides that are used in this country to control insects and crops," he says.

"What is that worth if we saved on that and didn't have to apply that to the environment?"

"In the case of corn, if you plant a conventional hybrid, you may have insects that'll burrow into the kernels. Because of that, you get different toxins and molds that are pretty severe. The corn that's infected with those molds ends up in the food chain, whereas with the genetically modified corn, you have very little of that, if any," he adds.

Last year, Rohloff opened his farm to the public for a Biotechnology Field Day to provide an education to those who lacked knowledge about genetically modified crops or were not convinced that they were safe for human consumption.

"There were a couple of people who had negative ideas, and I took them into the field and explained it to them, and they came away with a positive attitude," he says. "I think as our population grows, and if we do have climate changes, whether it's due to global warming or some other phenomenon, and we do have less and less land and people, this technology will definitely have its advantages over conventional crops."

"I would welcome anyone here to show them the benefits of this," he adds. "I do feel that people need to be aware of what goes on with their food supply, and I wouldn't be doing this if I felt there was negativity to the issue."

## Summary of Health Information for International Travel

(The Blue Sheet)

**Countries with areas infected with quarantinable diseases according to the World Health Organization (WHO)**

September 7, 2001

### CHOLERA-INFECTED COUNTRIES

This list represents those countries reporting cholera cases to WHO 14 days prior to the date above.

#### Africa Angola

Benin  
BurkinaFaso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
  
Central African Republic  
  
Chad  
Comoros Congo  
Côte d'Ivoire  
  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
  
Djibouti  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Liberia Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mozambique  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
  
SãoTomé & Príncipe  
  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Swaziland  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe  
  
Central America  
El Salvador Guatemala  
Nicaragua

#### East Asia

China

#### Indian Subcontinent

Afghanistan  
Bhutan India Nepal Sri Lanka

#### Middle East

Iran  
Iraq

#### South America

Brazil  
Ecuador  
Peru  
Venezuela

#### Southeast Asia

Cambodia  
Laos  
Myanmar  
Philippines  
Vietnam

**Countries removed during the 14 days prior to date above**  
NONE

### YELLOW FEVER-INFECTED COUNTRIES

#### Africa

COUNTRY  
REGION WITHIN COUNTRY

Angola: Provinces: Bengo and Luanda

Benin: Department: Atakora, du Borgou

Burkina Faso: Gaoua Region

Cameroon: Northern Province

Côte d'Ivoire Department de l'Ouest

Democratic Republic of Congo: North of 10° South

Gabon: Ogooue'-Ivindo Province

Gambia: Upper River Division

Ghana: Upper West Region,

Upper East Region

Guinea: Siguiri Region

Liberia: Counties: Bassa County,

Boma County, Bong County, Lofa County, Rivercess County, Sinoe County

Nigeria: States: Anambra, Bauchi, Bendel, Benue, Cross River, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, and Plateau.

Sierra Leone: Kenema District

Sudan: South of 12° North

**South America**

**COUNTRY**

**REGION WITHIN COUNTRY**

Bolivia: Departments: Beni, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Santa Cruz

Brazil: States: Amapá, Amazonas, Bahia, Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, Pará, Roraima, São Paulo, and Tocantins

Colombia: Departments: Antioquia, Boyaca, Caqueta, Casanare, Cesar, Choco, Cundinamarca, Meta, Norte de Santander, Santander, and Vichada. Intendencias: Arauca, Cucuta, Guaviare, and Putumayo

Ecuador: Provinces: Morona-Santiago, Napo, Pastaza, Sucumbios, and Zamora Chinchipe

French Guiana: Saint Laurent-du-Moroni region

Peru: Departments: Amazonas, Ancash, Ayacucho, Cusco, Huanuco, Junin, Loreto, Madre de Dios, Puno, Pasco, San Martin, and Ucayali

Venezuela: Amazonas State, Bolivar State

**PLAGUE-INFECTED COUNTRIES**

Vietnam-Country considered a threat in the introduction of plague

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**Rockwell Labs' InVite Multi-Lure Oil**

*PCT-Online*

New InVite Multi-Lure Oil is the perfect solution for professionally and economically trapping and monitoring a range of pantry pests, its manufacturer, Rockwell Labs, says. InVite

Multi-Lure Oil contains five pheromones for cigarette beetles, red and confused flour beetles, warehouse and khapra beetles, Indian meal moths, and Almond and Mediterranean Flour moths. The pheromones are blended in a food-grade oil that has been shown to attract 24 different species in field trials. InVite Multi-Lure Oil is designed to be used in the D-Sect Station for a professional, effective and economical solution for trapping stored product pests. The InVite Multi-Lure Oil lasts 60 to 90 days and can be replaced.

**For more information:**

Rockwell Labs

(866) 788-4101

[www.rockwelllabs.com](http://www.rockwelllabs.com)

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**Parting Shots.....**

That's all for now. Remember that we are here to address your pest management concerns. Give us a call at DSN 686-8122, commercial 510-337-8122 or drop us a line at [paa5245@exmail.dscpl.dla.mil](mailto:paa5245@exmail.dscpl.dla.mil).

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