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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Course on Pest Control in Museums

Author(s): Stansfield, G.

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Course on Pest Control in Museums

For the third year running the Institute of Archaeology of the University of London is running a course on Insect Pest Control in Museum Collections. In preparation for my role as tutor on the course I have been compiling an extensive bibliography on the subject and collecting information on pest control methods used in museums.

Most natural history curators will be aware that a new species of Dermestid beetle Anthrenus sarnicus was described in 1962 and that this species has subsequently been found infesting museum collections at the BMNH. I would be interested to hear from any other museums where this species has been found together with any information which might suggest how it has been introduced. I would also be interested to hear from museums which have found sarnicus in their collections (mounted specimens).

I am aware that Martyn Linnie of the Zoology Department of the University of Dublin has also circulated museums asking for details of pest control methods.

Members of BCG might find the attached references useful. That by Nigel. Armes describing his research project at the BMNH on the biology and control of sarnicus is particularly interesting.

Armes, Nigel, J., 'Aspects of the biology of the Guernsey Carpet Beetle, Anthrenus sarnicus Mroczk., and control of dermestid pests in museums. Preprints of the 7th Triennial Meeting of the ICOM Committee for Conservation held in Copenhagen. 1984 13.1-13.3.

Edwards, R. (1969). Anthrenus sarnicus Mroczk. (Col. Dermestidae). The present status of this insect in the British Isles. Entomologists mon Mag. 105, 119-121.

Mroczkowski, M. 'Anthrenus sarnicus sp. n. (Coleoptera Dermestidae) from the Island of Guernsey. Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. series 13.5 697-700 (1962).

Woodroffe, G.E., (1967). Anthrenus sarnicus Mroczkowski (Coleoptera Dermestidae) in Britain. J. stored Prod. Res. 3. 263-265.

The University of London Course will run from 28th July to 1st August 1986. Further details may be obtained from James Black, Co-ordinator, Summer Schools, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY.

Geoff Stansfield
Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester. 105 Princess Road
East. Leicester LE1 7LG.

1986 is International Bat Year.

The Fauna and Flora Preservation Society have made up a small (6'x2'x3' panels) travelling exhibition which it is offering free, one to each bat group region. These normally cover six or so counties, so viewing time in any one county will be limited.

It was also offering the exhibition at £100 to interested parties (supporting boards to fit Marler Hayley type supports, £50 extra), but the response has been so poor that the original price cannot be held to. To do so requires a minimum of six orders. Leicestershire Museums Service is good for one. How about you ?

If interested, please contact Jan Dawson by the end of March. If I receive six or more orders, I will alert the FFPS and get them to contact you direct. If I don't, I'll let you know.

Jan Dawson
Leicestershire Museums
96 New Walk
Leicester
LE1 6TD