# February 24 PESTNEWS





HOW TO KILL MORE **FLYING INSECTS** FASTER

MINES AGAINST MALARIA

ANTS FOR DINNER

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## ANTS FOR DINNER

For some animals, ants are a delicacy. They will go to great lengths to find their favorite food.

By Hilda Swart - CEO: SAPCA

#### PANGOLINS

Pangolins eat ants, termites and larvae and are often known as "the scaly anteater." These scaly creatures spend most of their time snuffling through leaves and soil. They will yank off tree barks with their tail while using their claws to dig underground. It uses its powerful sense of smell to find ants, which is its main food source. It has a shorter snout than that of an aardvark, and a long tongue, covered in extremely stick saliva. Because they have no teeth, pangolins pick up food with their sticky tongues, which can sometimes reach lengths greater than the animal's body. These ant-lovers can easily slurp up an estimated 20,000 in one meal. This means that an average Pangolin can consume about 70 million ants in a year.





#### ANT-EATING CHAT

The Ant-eating Chat, also known as the Southern Anteater-Chat and Myrmecocichla formicivora, is a bird species that is categorized under the Muscicapidae or Old World Flycatcher family.

This little brown bird is always on the lookout for its favorite snack which is a big part of their diet. Ants, but they also feed on other insects such as termites, beetles, caterpillars etc. They mostly find their food on the ground, sifting through sand and leaf litter to find these insects. These chats have something else in common with aardvarks, besides their love for ants. They like to build their nests inside abandoned aardvark burrows.



### Aardvark

Aardvarks are nocturnal. They are very secretive animals so very little is known about their way of life. Aardvarks forage for food only at night and mostly find their food underground. They have bad eyesight, but have excellent senses of smell and hearing, which they use to help find termite nests. They walk in zigzags, sniffing the ground and pointing their ears forwards. Once a nest has been located, aardvarks are ideally equipped for breaking in. They have long, spoon-shaped claws and powerful forelimbs ideally adapted to burrowing into termite mounds and can penetrate nests which could not be broken through by a man using a pickaxe. There are four claws on each front foot and five on each back foot. Aardvarks have thin and sticky tongues up to 45cm long. They are ideal for feeding on ants or termites swarming through a hole in their nest. The snout is long, and is protected from dust by a fringe of rough bristles.



#### JUMPING SPIDER

Ant-mimicking jumping spiders, some of these spiders in this family hunt using an impressive disguise. They pretend to be ants, just so they can get as close as possible without the ants becoming suspicious. These spiders not only have the same colouring and markings as their six-legged prey, but they also move their front legs to look like feelers. When a jumping spider grabbed an ant, the lookalike can sneakily disappear from the scene, without the other ants knowing what it's up to.

- References and images:
- https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/what-is-a-pangolin
- https://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/aardvark/food-and-feeding
- www.wildcard.co.za
- https://www.jumpingspiders.co.za/spiderviewer.php?g=Myrmarachne&s=marshalli&x=f&u=400.jpg
- https://ebird.org/species/soacha1?siteLanguage=en\_ZA





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## HOW TO KILL MORE **FLYING INSECTS** FASTER

**By Steve Broadbent** Director of Ensystex

Electronic Fly Killer (EFK) units that use glueboards to trap the flies are the only flying insect control solution that fully meet the requirements of Food Standards Australia and HACCP programs in the food industry and; according to Steve Broadbent, Regional Director for Ensystex, "The design and performance specifications of such models are critical if optimal performance and speed of kill is to be achieved.

"The supply and servicing of highperformance EFK traps such as the Vectothor range from Ensystex provides a great revenue stream for Professional Pest Managers, as well as delivering an essential high-end pest management service for their clients. Only glueboard based models will meet the requirements and needs of concerned food establishments. There are a number of reasons that the oldfashioned High-Tension Grid models should no longer be employed.

"Insect control units with a high tension grid kill by an electrical discharge which is so powerful that, in the process, particles of the insect body (wings, legs) tear off. These insect fragments, are not collected in the tray, and may eventually find their way into food consumed or food present in the area, causing decay and sickness. Bacteria and bits from exploding insects can travel 2 metres or more on air currents creating a high risk of such food poisoning.

"There are also numerous documented reports that the insect particles, and more particularly insect hairs, create serious health issues for people with respiratory conditions e.g. bronchitis, asthma, etc. For this reason, these units are banned in those areas in the US where people with health issues are likely to be present e.g. waiting rooms, hospitals, medical areas, etc.

"High tension grids also cause sparking (noise) and even electrical interference; and they require much more power, meaning higher running costs. High tension grids are operated by a transformer (or capacitor). These transformers consume up to 20 w per hour, which results in an extra 175 kW per unit per year. At a cost of 30 cents per kWh, the annual surcharges would be \$52! Given a 5 – 10 year life span for an EFK, this becomes a significant impost.

"A clear benefit to professional pest managers providing high quality EFKs to the market is the additional revenue stream that is generated from servicing these units and, with leading audit bodies increasingly specifying the use of glueboard-based EFKs as best practice, there is a strong focus now on regular servicing as part of the food audit process.

"Regular servicing is essential to ensure the units work optimally, hygienically and safely. Typically, service cycles will complement service visits for other pest species, ensuring maximum productivity on a service run and increased revenue benefits.

"Premium quality boards, such as the UV-A/ Temperature Optimised Boards that form part of the Ensystex Vectothor range, are designed to last at least three months, and can be changed without the technician getting glue over himself. The larger surface area and high-tack glue ensures more flies can be caught too. Cheaper glueboards will often dry out much sooner and they are either not tacky enough to catch insects, or they are so tacky that the technician finds themselves coated in glue during the changeover process.

"Catch analyses should form part of an EFK IPM service report to confirm flying insect activity. The Glueboard Fly Counting Software provided by Ensystex is a great benefit from this perspective. All it takes is a photo on a Smartphone to reveal an accurate count of the flies caught.

#### YOUR EFK SERVICE TOOLKIT

- UV-Tester
- Wipes or spray cleaning solution and cloths to clean the unit
- Black plastic bags for hygienic disposal of glueboards
- Service stickers to record visit dates
- Smartphone with Glueboard Fly Counting Software App

"Lamps are required to be changed annually, with the exception of the unique Philips Long-life lamp, which only needs to be changed every two years. Lamps are ideally changed around August/ September, prior to peak fly activity, which coincides with the quieter service months. The EFK itself should also be cleaned on each service visit.

"Ensystex, in association with Astron and Philips, have performed extensive product testing of various lamps in the market and the performance differences are quite astonishing, with some only producing acceptable levels of UV-A light for 6 – 10 weeks at most!

"Previously it was difficult to measure the UV-A output of light tubes in the field, but a unique UV-Mobile Tester, marketed by Ensystex for just under \$40, now enables PPM to show their clients, or potential clients, exactly what is going on. For too long, too many people have simply considered that if the tube shines blue, then it will attract flies. This is simply not the case. Flies are attracted to UV-A light in the sub-visible spectrum. This means we cannot see UV-A light. In fact, blue light is only added to the tubes light spectrum so we can tell if the unit is switched on or off! EFKs must give off at least 5 mW/ m2 of UV-A light if they are to be effective. Once levels

fall below this, the lamps should be changed. The Ensystex Astron and Philips lamps typically give off 15+ mW/ m2!

"When changing UV-A lamps, always clean the EFK thoroughly. Dirty reflectors and plastics can significantly reduce the useful UV-A performance of the lamps. This is especially the case when attraction grids are not cleaned. Check the lamp sockets. Be sure that the lamps are correctly placed in the lamp sockets. Replace any which show worn springs or loose contacts. Poor lamp contacts can cause difficulty in lamp starting, shorten lamp life, cause premature end blackening, and possibly electrical arcing at the lamp ends. Finally, remember to change the lamp starters regularly. After the European Union Removal of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive came into place, lamps became more sensitive during start up. Generally, most manufacturers recommend changing the starters at every lamp replacement. A worn-out starter can quickly destroy a good lamp!



"Vectothor Insect Traps feature European design excellence to achieve further performance benefits, together with cutting edge technology such as Natural UV-A Sunlight Technology and the use of Natural Contrast Grids to further improve performance and speed of kill."

Mr Broadbent concluded by advising how important some of these design aspects are, "Pot rivets are used in many cheaper models to clamp the metal parts together; yet this is forbidden in most food standards as these easily fill up with dirt and cannot be cleaned. Ensystex has spent a great deal of time to ensure that all units are smooth, not only for safety reasons, but also because of these hygienic reasons. And of course the entire supply chain is produced in ISO9000 accredited facilities to meet all relevant global international standards, which is backed up by a report from an accredited and authorized laboratory: TUV Rheinland.

"Additionally, RoHS (Removal of Hazardous Substances) and chrome-6 declarations are available, with no heavy metals used during the production of the units or the components. And, since each unit has a serial number, each lamp has a batch number, each shatterproof sleeving has a production batch number, and each ballast has a production batch number, it means complete traceability at all times. This is why Ensystex uniquely offers a two year guarantee on the quality and performance of all Vectothor models.

For further information on how to improve your revenue stream with Vectothor fly control systems, call Ensystex on 13 35 36.



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## MINES AGAINST MALARIA

The mining sector can make a significant contribution towards disease prevention and elimination across Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### by Andrew Saibu

Africa Regional Coordinator - www.ivcc.com

The private sector, and mining companies in particular, can play an important role in supporting malaria control throughout sub-Saharan Africa, where the disease claims the life of a child every minute. In contributing to reducing malaria's burden, mining companies can demonstrate how social corporate responsibility at their operations can impact workforce productivity and enhance the wellbeing of their workers and local communities, leading to a rewarding return on investment.

The WHO Africa region carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. The latest World Malaria Report estimates that of the 249 million cases of malaria and 580,000 deaths worldwide in 2022, the Africa region accounted for 94% of cases and 95% of deaths. Children under five accounted for about 80% of deaths in the region.

The impact of malaria is not just one of human suffering. It has a significant economic cost; it places a burden on households, local and multinational business, and national economies. Company profits are affected through employee absenteeism, reduced productivity, and escalating cost of healthcare for employees. In some African countries, malaria reduces GDP growth up to an estimated 1.3%1.

Malaria spreads when a person is bitten by a mosquito infected with the malaria parasite. Vector control, where the aim is to interrupt the transmission cycle to reduce the spread of malaria, is a key component of malaria control and elimination strategies. It remains the most effective measure to prevent malaria transmission2. Commonly, mosquito populations are reduced by the application of longlasting insecticides to the inside walls of homes through indoor residual spraying (IRS) and the deployment of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), which reduce human contact with infected mosquitoes and provide both personal and community-level protection.

Donor investment plays an important role in financing malaria elimination programmes but it is increasingly competitive and impacted by wider global financial pressures. Countries face operational, technical, and financial challenges when it comes to selecting and deploying vector control tools. This, coupled with stalling downward trends in malaria incidence and mortality, means countries must find innovative ways to finance malaria elimination.

By facilitating access to vector control tools for workers and local communities, mining corporations can contribute to global efforts to eliminate malaria. In so doing, they can also contribute to the national agenda of malaria elimination in the countries in which they operate. Moreover, by filling funding gaps to deliver on malaria elimination targets, mining corporations build reputational capital with local and national governments.

Commitment in this area can also reduce the financial toll malaria has on mining operations themselves. Prevention interventions contribute to a reduction in overall expenditure on treatment for malaria cases. This has additional economic benefits by way of increased workforce productivity. Healthcare costs can also be reallocated to non-malaria conditions, as well as increasing the availability of mining health practitioners to attend to non-malaria related conditions.

By killing mosquitoes and reducing the overall size of mosquito populations in any given area, both IRS and ITNs have a community effect – that is, they provide protection not only to those in the household where the intervention is deployed, but also to the population in the local community. This highlights the benefit of spraying not only structures where employees reside, but also buildings in surrounding towns and villages.

In 2006, AngloGold Ashanti, with the support of the Ghana National Malaria Control Programme, sprayed structures at their Obuasi mine, as well as Obuasi town and surrounding villages. Over 36,000 households were sprayed during the IRS campaign. Malaria prevalence in children under five was reduced by 11-44% in several districts3.

Public-private partnership between the mining industry and national health services can support the communities impacted by mining and malaria, while at the same time strengthening local health services and contributing to disease prevention and management. Furthermore, by implementing vector control strategies across their operations, mining corporations can contribute to global efforts to eliminate malaria.



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2.	Empty pesticide packaging must not be removed/offloaded from the vehicle until permission is granted by the responsible person to do so.
3.	Upon arriving on the premises of a certified recycler dedicated to PCOs, permission is sought from the responsible person prior to disposal.
4.	The empty pesticide packaging will be inspected by the responsible person prior to being accepted to ensure that packaging being disposed of is nominally empty.
5.	A Certificate of Disposal (CoDi) form will be issued by the responsible person to the PCO after confirming that empty packaging being disposed of has been adequately cleaned.
6.	Empty pesticide packaging that has <u>not been cleaned</u> or adequately cleaned will <u>NOT</u> be accepted by any of the CropLife SA Recyclers dedicated to PCOs across the country.
7.	Any unlawful behaviour or non-compliance with this SOP that is brought to the attention of SAPCA will be directed to the CropLife SA Product Responsibility Organisation (PRO) for further action.
8.	For more information, guidance or queries pertaining to the management of empty pesticide packaging, please contact Mr H. Ramanand ( <u>hiresh@croplife.co.za</u> ) or Dr G.H. Verdoorn ( <u>gerhard@croplife.co.za</u> ).
	Alternatively: <u>https://croplife.co.za/Home/ContainerManagement</u> or access this web page via the link available on the SAPCA website, <u>www.sapca.org.za</u>
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4	GP	CoDiPES/2021/1/1	Pathogen & Environmental Science Johannesburg	Midrand	Ingrid Phakula	064 012 0334	011 312 6993	6993 ingrid@pesafrica.net
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9	KZN	CoDiHEN/2022/2/1	Henchem, Umbilo	Umbilo	Sherry Maharaj	0614730162		kzndepot@henchem.co.za
7	KZN	CoDiPES/2021/2/1	Pathogen & Environmental Science, Durban	Durban	Maxine Somaru		031 261 6425	durban@pesafrica.net
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## **Weevils:** A Promising Solution to Vaal River's Water Lettuce Crisis

by Candice Case - Ad-dictions Marketing

The rapid proliferation of water lettuce along the Vaal River poses a significant threat to both the ecosystem and the communities reliant on its waters. Originating in South America, this invasive species has swiftly spread, encompassing approximately 25km of the river from the Taaibos tributary to the Vaal Barrage. Urgent action is imperative to prevent further downstream spread, potentially affecting water quality and irrigation systems for up to 1,000km.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, local residents have mobilized efforts to address the crisis. However, traditional manual removal methods have proven inadequate against the relentless growth of water lettuce. In response, attention has turned to biological control agents, notably the water lettuce weevil, Neochetina eichhorniae.

Experts highlight the efficacy of weevils in controlling invasive species. Unlike chemical alternatives, which pose risks to aquatic life and native plants, weevils target water lettuce exclusively. By feeding on the leaves and inducing waterlogging, these insects provide a sustainable, environmentally friendly solution.

Despite the need for patience due to seasonal variations in reproduction and feeding rates, the success of similar programs worldwide underscores



the long-term viability of biological control. In light of this national crisis, cooperation between communities, authorities, and researchers is paramount. By embracing weevils as powerful allies in combating water lettuce, we pave the way for a healthier, more resilient Vaal River ecosystem.

#### References and images:

(Photo: David Taylor / Centre for Biological Control) https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-01-31-rapidwater-lettuce-spread-threatens-vaal-river-weevils-could-bethe-solution/



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## GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH & Food Safety Summit

### 4-6 JUNE 2024

The Global Public Health & Food Safety Summit is dedicated to advancing the crucial mission of safeguarding against the adverse effects of pests on health and food safety. It recognises the vital role pest management professionals play in preserving the health and safety of communities worldwide.

The global summit runs over the three days of June 4-6, 2024 and is to be held at the Eden Roc hotel in Miami, Florida USA.

The joint organisation of this event extends across the entire global pest management industry. From the USA, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), from Europe the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and from Asia and Oceania, the Federation of Asian & Oceania Pest Managers Associations (FAOPMA).

It promises to be a unique gathering of industry pioneers, thought leaders and professionals committed to safeguarding food safety and public health. With a line-up of international speakers, delegates can participate in the dynamic programme that blends cutting-edge research with strategic insights and collaborative discussions.

The third day, June 6, is also World Pest Day to be hosted by the Global Pest Management Coalition.

Details can be found on the Summit website at www.npmapestworld.org/food-safety Information regarding the programme, registration and hotel details are available here.





#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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#### ORGANISING ASSOCIATIONS



