

# |CEPA|



## MOTHS

### IN THE LAUNDROMAT

**In May 2019 Depec received a phone call. There were big problems in one of their customer's facilities, an industrial laundry facility that takes in flat linen, towels and bathmats, table linen and uniforms.**

**The cause? *Tineola bisselliella* (the common clothes moth).**

The first stop for Depec was to thoroughly inspect all the areas where these materials were being processed. To their surprise, there was no sign of any larvae or pupae where the clothes were being washed! It was in fact the offices that were seeing the worst of the infestation. However, from the outside, it was almost impossible to tell there was a problem.

When the professionals opened up the cabinets, they discovered the extent of the problem. The staff had been using insecticides and pheromone moth traps to try to get a handle on it, but it was clear that the root cause needed to be targeted to tackle the major infestation.

Upon further inspection, the professional pest managers noticed that the laundromat was in a building that had different construction types. The Production Area was built using concrete, while the offices had been built to be ecologically friendly, using biodegradable and eco-efficient materials.

After spotting a host of moths in the ceiling lights, Depec started asking questions about the construction materials, following up quickly by taking samples to inspect for larvae.

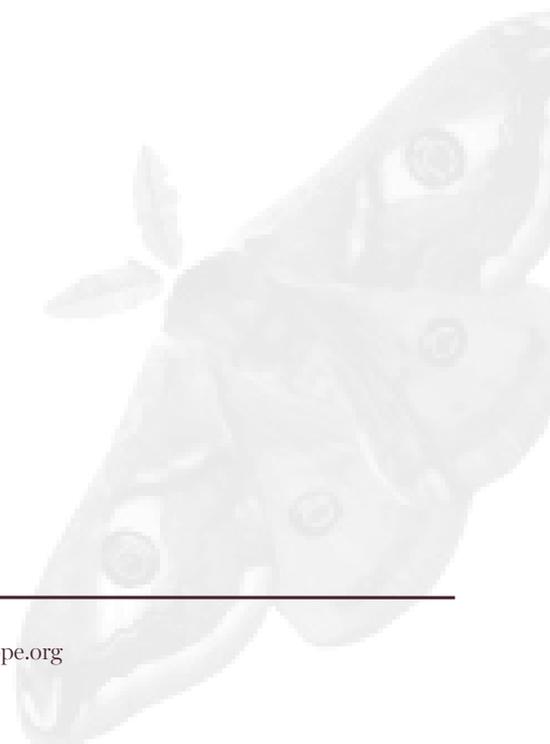


*“They found the origin of the problem inside the textile panels used to make the walls and ceiling.”*

They found the origin of the problem inside the textile panels used to make the walls and ceiling.

Now that the cause was found, it was time to find the best adapted solution to treat the panels whilst minimising the environmental and health risks. They decided to go with the same method often used for floorboard - injecting an insecticide through a hole in the inferior part of the panels and letting the product fill the space. They chose not to inject the product into the superior part in order to minimise the amount of insecticide needed.

Six months after the single treatment, the entire premises were completely moth-free. The cost-risk, both environmentally and economically, of needing to replace the costly laundry was mitigated.



## #TheGoodPestManager@Work

This series of fact sheets showcases sustainable pest management products and practices. They provide snapshots of the good pest manager at work.

From vector mapping via innovative software to digital rodent traps and heat treatments, pest management is a unique and multi-faceted service sector that helps secure hygiene and by so-doing contributes significantly to public health. It is increasingly important today in dealing with the effects of climate change which are resulting in a growing incidence of plagues of insects and rodents.

These case studies capture the essence of the thought leadership and business acumen of this service sector, not only through the digitalisation of services but equally through a concern to respect and take care of the environments where infestations occur. In all instances presented, innovation is at the core of these sustainable business practices.

CEPA is proud to champion innovative and sustainable pest management practices that can be used on the ground. It is what we call #TheGoodPestManager. Professional pest management is a service sector that does not receive broad recognition or visibility. We hope these illustrative examples will shed light on the way we operate to prevent and deal with pest infestation and the value we bring to society on a daily basis.



### ABOUT CEPA

Founded in 1974, CEPA, the European pest management services trade association brings together more than 70 national associations and companies along the whole pest management chain in 23 European countries.

CEPA represents primarily the European pest management service sector, which at its core is a network of European SMEs with substantial economic growth potential. Our mission as a service sector is to contribute to the protection and assurance of the wellbeing of EU citizens especially in the context of smart, sustainable, healthy cities.

We work with a broad range of actors at local level from manufacturers to the catering sector, from hospitals to schools and other educational establishments, from retailers to public authorities, from a wide range of businesses to political institutions at all levels.

Against a backdrop of climate change increasing the presence of pests in urban environments, the sound management of overpopulated cities has never been more critical. Our sector of the service industry is leading the charge in assuring tangible, sustainable solutions for the well-being of Europe's citizens.

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