

A strategy for empowering Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in a library

Four steps to eradicate the pests from a library is illustrated following two case studies conducted by National Library Sri Lanka

Eradication the pest infestation in Martin Wickramasinghe book collection National Library, Colombo

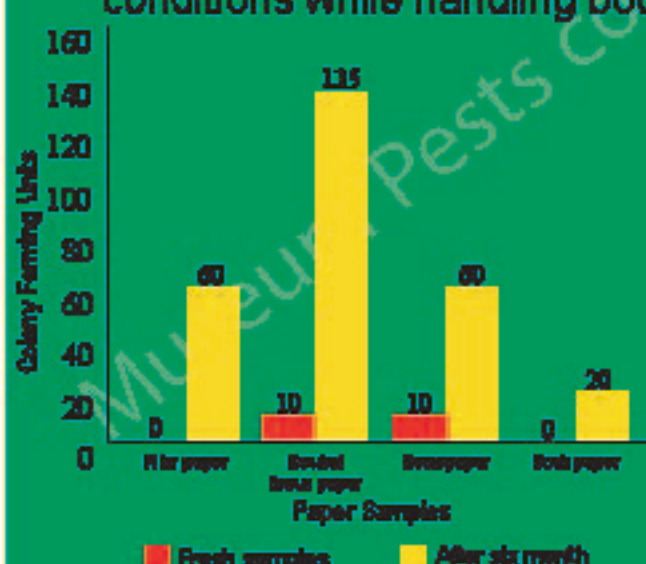
Well-controlled the fungal outbreak at public library of Nuwera Eliya

Monitoring

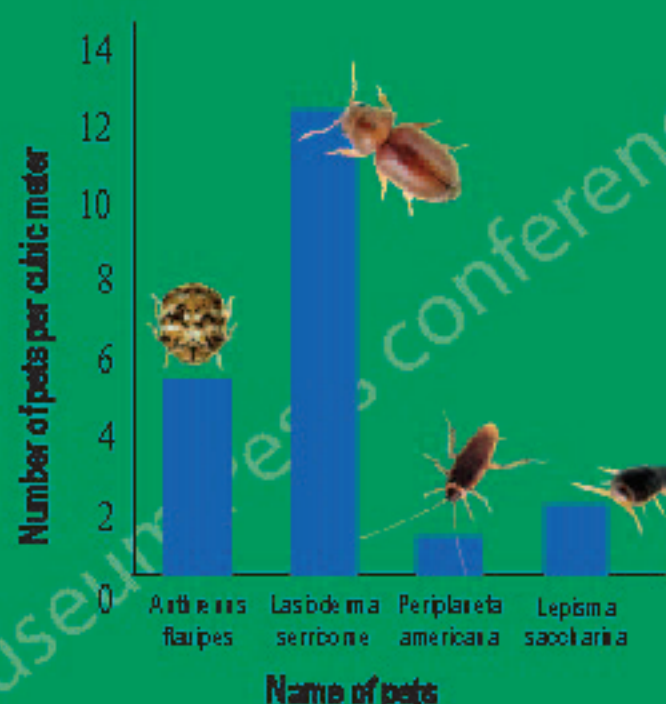
Crawling pests were monitored by blunder trap survey



Fungal growth was monitored on selected paper samples for six months. Results were confirmed that fungal growth was in normal condition but library staff continuously complains allergy and irritation conditions while handling books.



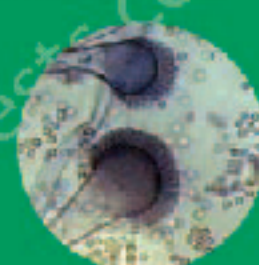
Identification



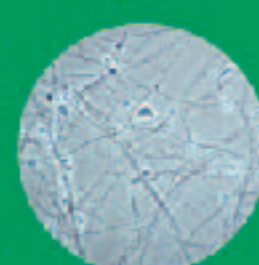
Identified the infested fungi up to genus level by microbial culture method



penicillium species



aspergillus species



mucor species

Books and shelves were vacuumed then cleaned by soft paint brushes to remove the dust and fungal spores from the library. Disinfection was applied to floor area of the library.



The entire book collection was covered by tarpaulin to carry out phosphine fumigation

Immediate treatment

Immediate treatment

Treatments

Late treatment

Late treatment



The books damaged by pests were treated in conservation laboratory at the National Library, Colombo



Books were fumigated in a Thymol fumigation cupboard.

The wheat flour was an ingredient of adhesive used for repairing books. It was replaced by Carboxymethyl cellulose to minimize the attraction of pests to the books.



Ventilators were covered by glasses in order to block the approach of pests to the book collection

Prevention

This area gets high rain fall throughout the year. Daily routine activities were observed carefully and concluded that the books might slightly get wet transport from library to home and home to library by readers owing to the above climatic condition.

Readers were requested to bring a "Rainy Bag" to collect the books. Cleaning the library and Thymol fumigation are carried out routinely.

