

|CEPA|

STONEFLIES

SWARM THE OFFICE



Within the inner courtyard of an administrative complex of an insurance company, an artificial body of water had been built.

This pond, while creating a relaxing atmosphere for staff was also creating an unbearable problem: Mass fly infestations, rendering the area inaccessible.

The flies soiled the glass facades and harassed employees as they invaded the offices. The employees of the insurance company complained en masse, some even refusing to continue work at the site.

The trained, professional pest managers called in to deal with the infestation identified the pests as stoneflies (Plecoptera).



“The larvae of this fly develop in water; then leaves the water to pupate, allowing the then adult stonefly to hatch.”

As immature nymphs, they are drawn to fresh water such as streams and rivers, where they serve as an important food source for a wide variety of predators, mostly fish, in these freshwater ecosystems. Adult stoneflies emerge during the winter and spring, fly mostly at night and are attracted to lights of buildings.

As a first step, the trained, professional pest managers decided to investigate the water quality and fauna composition of the pond. The water quality was high but housed almost exclusively stonefly larvae without any other living creatures. The man-made pond was a far cry from any natural habitat, leaving the flies free to breed unhindered by natural predators or competing species.



*“They soon found that the three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) was a very effective predator, which they introduced into the pond alongside other species.”*

They added 600 small fish in total! While still a human intervention, this attempt to mirror the stoneflies’ natural ecosystem drastically reduced their numbers while totally eliminating the need for chemical treatments.

These small predatory fish decimated the stonefly population in a short amount of time. A balance was achieved in the water and the pest problem was resolved.



#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.