February 2026

FAOPMA MAGAZINE

ISSUE 22

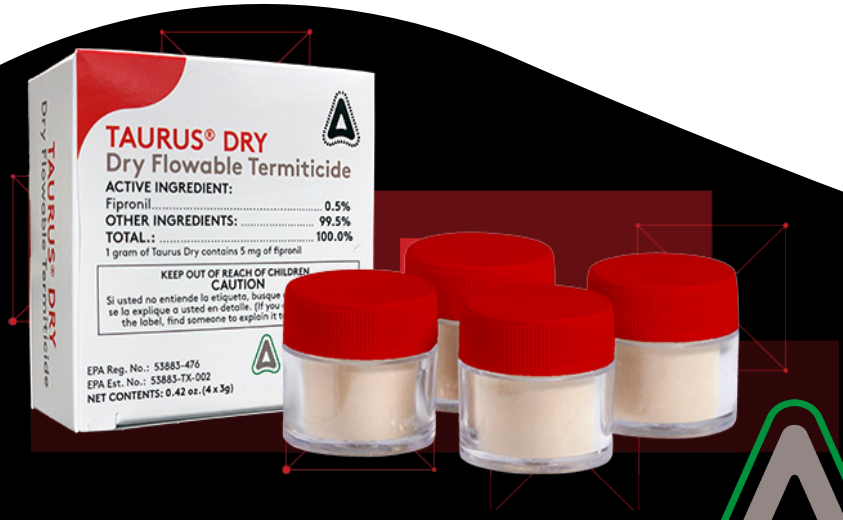
Federation of Asian & Oceania Pest Managers Associations
Protecting the Homes of over 4 Billion People

Future Proof : Smarter Solutions for a Rapidly Changing World

ADAMA

DOXEM PRECISE

PRECISION
DELIVERY SYSTEM



TAURUS DRY

ADAMA

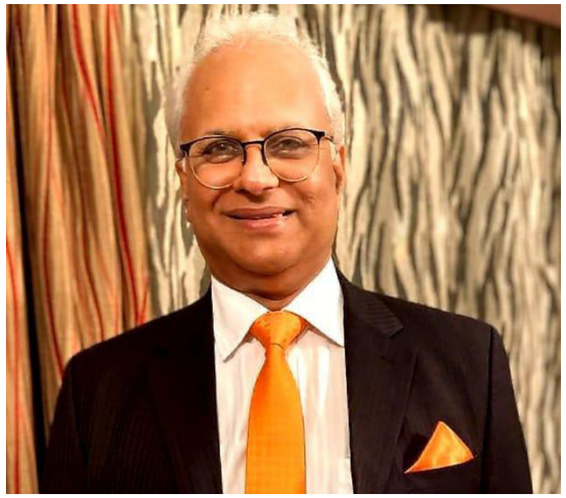
WELCOME.

I am deeply honoured and truly humbled to have been elected as the President of FAOPMA for the years 2025-2027. This trust placed in me by all our member associations is both a privilege and a responsibility that I accept with gratitude. I look forward to working closely with our Executive Committee and the representatives of our member country associations, to further strengthen FAOPMA's role in promoting professionalism, collaboration, and growth across the pest management industry in the Asia–Oceania region.

I also acknowledge the role and contributions of all past Presidents of FAOPMA through these years and look to carry forward this legacy.

The pest management industry plays an indispensable role in safeguarding public health, food security, and the environment. Our responsibility goes beyond controlling pests; it extends to ensuring the well-being of millions, protecting businesses, and upholding global sustainability goals. In an era where emerging pest threats, climate change, and regulatory challenges are reshaping our landscape, FAOPMA must remain at the forefront — driving awareness & education, research & innovation, and best practices across our region.

Going forward, we will focus on empowering our member associations, elevating training and professional



FAOPMA

standards, fostering cross-border cooperation, and creating stronger platforms for knowledge exchange.

We will work to ensure that FAOPMA remains a trusted voice for industry matters and a catalyst for progress throughout the region.

I urge all of you to join hands in shaping the future of our industry. Together, we can elevate standards, drive positive change, and make FAOPMA a beacon of excellence in pest management worldwide.

Once again, thank you for your trust and support. I am excited and committed to serving FAOPMA and all of you with dedication and integrity. Let's move forward together!

Raju Parulkar
President - FAOPMA

FAOPMA

CONTENT

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

AUCKLAND | NEW ZEALAND

15-17 JULY 2026

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WELCOME TO FAOPMA PEST SUMMIT 2026

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

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15-17 JULY 2026

This July, the global pest management community will gather in Auckland for the FAOPMA Pest Summit 2026, hosted in partnership by FAOPMA,the Pest Management Association of New Zealand (PMANZ) and the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association (AEPMA), and set against the backdrop of New Zealand's dynamic landscapes and strong biosecurity culture, the Summit brings together industry leaders, researchers, and innovators from across the Asia–Pacific and beyond.

With the theme FutureProof: Smarter Pest Solutions for a Rapidly Changing World, the 2026 program reflects the region's shared commitment to advancing science, strengthening professional standards, and preparing the industry for emerging challenges. Over three days, delegates will explore new technologies, climate-driven pest pressures, evolving customer expectations, and the skills needed to build a resilient, future-ready workforce.

Auckland's state-of-the-art New Zealand International Convention Centre provides the perfect setting for this collaborative, forward-looking event — a place where global expertise meets local leadership, and where the next chapter of pest management innovation begins.

FUTURE PROOF STARTS HERE.....

FAOPMA

Meet Your Hosts: AEPMA, PMANZ & FAOPMA Welcome You to Pest Summit 2026

Pest Summit 2026 is more than a single association's event — it's a true collaboration between the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association (AEPMA), the Pest Management Association of New Zealand (PMANZ), and FAOPMA. Together, these three organisations are bringing the Asia–Pacific community to Auckland for a Summit shaped by shared expertise, regional unity, and a commitment to raising industry standards across borders.

Following the ceremonial handover at the 2025 Pest Summit in Penang, PMANZ stepped forward as the official host for 2026, supported closely by AEPMA and guided by FAOPMA's long-standing leadership. It's a partnership that blends New Zealand's innovation, Australia's industry strength, and FAOPMA's global perspective — ensuring delegates experience a world-class program grounded in collaboration.

Under the leadership of PMANZ President Gerwyn Jones, and with AEPMA and FAOPMA working alongside the host committee, the 2026 Summit promises a dynamic mix of technical learning, international insights, and genuine Kiwi hospitality.

From the modern NZICC venue to a program focused on future-ready pest management, this year's hosts are committed to delivering an event that reflects the best of our region.

Together, AEPMA, PMANZ, and FAOPMA are proud to welcome you to Auckland — and to a Summit designed to inspire, connect, and elevate the industry.

> ***ON BEHALF OF PMANZ AND AEPMA (AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PEST MANAGERS ASSOCIATION), WE'RE PROUD TO INVITE YOU TO THE FAOPMA PEST SUMMIT 2026, TAKING PLACE FROM 15 TO 17 JULY 2026 IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND*** - GERWYN JONES PRESIDENT PMANZ

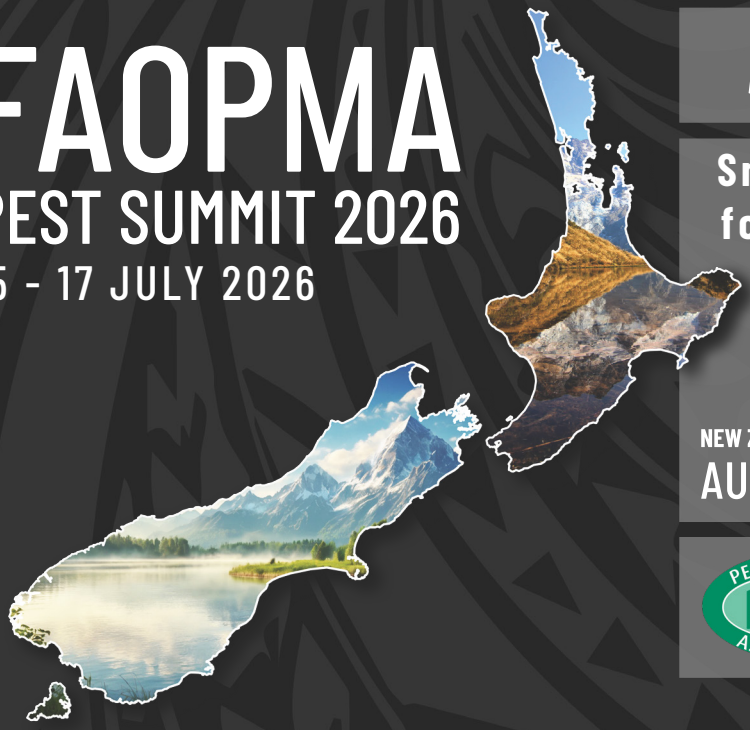
PASSING THE BATON TO NEW ZEALAND

Every FAOPMA Pest Summit concludes with a ceremonial handover, where the hosting association passes the baton to the next country in line — a tradition that reflects the unity and shared leadership of the Asia–Pacific pest management community. At the close of the 2025 Summit in Penang, the Malaysian Pest Management Association (MPMA) continued this long-standing custom by officially passing hosting duties to the Pest Management Association of New Zealand (PMANZ). With the baton now in New Zealand's hands, preparations are well underway for an exceptional Pest Summit 2026 in Auckland.

Belvin Lee, Chairman of the 2025 Pest Summit Hosting Committee, officially passed the Pest Summit baton to Gerwyn Jones, President of the Pest Management Association of New Zealand, who will lead the hosting of the 2026 Pest Summit.

FAOPMA PEST SUMMIT 2026

15 - 17 JULY 2026



100% PURE NEW ZEALAND

FutureProof

Smarter Pest Solutions for a Rapidly Changing World

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

AUCKLAND | NEW ZEALAND

PEST MANAGEMENT pmanz ASSOCIATION of NZ

AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PEST MANAGERS ASSOCIATION LTD

JOIN US FOR 3 TRANSFORMATIVE DAYS bringing together industry leaders, innovators and professionals to explore smarter solutions for a more resilient pest management industry.

- Global Networking Opportunities
- World-Class Speakers
- Cutting-Edge Educational Sessions
- The latest in technology & products
- Experience NZ Culture
- Industry Awards & Recognition
- Sustainable Focus

REGISTRATION RATES

Delegate Type	Earlybird (Closes 31 May 2026)	Standard (After 31/5/26)
FAOPMA/PMANZ/AEPMA MEMBER		
First Delegate	NZD $560 USD $325	NZD $610 USD $350
Each additional delegate	NZD $510 USD $300	NZD $560 USD $325
International / Non-member		
First Delegate	NZD $610 USD $350	NZD $660 USD $375
Each additional delegate	NZD $560 USD $325	NZD $610 USD $350

Full Delegate Registration Includes: Access to 2 streams, conference materials, lunches, morning tea, Welcome Reception, and Conference Gala Dinner.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS & ADD-ONS

Event / Item	PRICE
Non-delegate Partner: Welcome Reception - 15th July 2026	NZD $90 USD $50
Non-delegate Partner: Conference Gala Dinner - 16th July 2026	NZD $220 USD $125
FAOPMA ExCo + Australian Awards Dinner - 15th July 2026 (Open to all attendees and Partners - Limited spaces available)	NZD $170 USD $100
AWPMA Networking Breakfast - 16th July 2026 (Open to all attendees and partners - Limited spaces available)	NZD $50 USD $30

To find out more, visit: https://faopma.com/2026

For all enquiries, email: info@pmanz.nz

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Australian Women's Pest Management Association

Envu & AWPMA Present
Exclusive Networking Breakfast

FAOPMA Pest Summit

TICKET REQUIRED · LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

16th July

Doors Open: 7:00 AM

Networking Breakfast

Monique Bradley

Global Keynote Speaker · MC
Storytelling & Communication Expert

THE POWER OF STORYTELLING IN BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP

- ✓ Speak with authority and authenticity
- ✓ Lead teams with clarity and connection
- ✓ Reframe challenges into purpose and opportunity
- ✓ Turn lived experiences into influence and professional growth

"One story can change a life.
A million stories can change the world."
— Monique Bradley

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE · RESERVE YOUR TICKET EARLY!

envu & AWPMA Australian Women's Pest Management Association

THE EXPERTS BEHIND THE INSIGHTS

OUR SPEAKERS

MEET SOME OF THE INDUSTRY LEADERS AND EXPERTS WHO WILL BE SHARING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHTS AT THE FAOPMA PEST SUMMIT 2026.

Dr Michelle Dickinson (MNZM), a leading engineer and technology strategist, will deliver the opening keynote at the FAOPMA Pest Summit 2026. With a career spanning science, engineering, and emerging technologies, she is internationally recognised for making complex ideas accessible and inspiring practical innovation.

Holding a PhD in Biomedical and Materials Engineering, Michelle's research has covered advanced nanomechanics, materials science, and biomedical engineering. She has advised major global technology companies on nanotechnology, AI, quantum computing, and sustainable tech, while maintaining an honorary academic role at the University of Auckland.

As co-founder of Nanogirl Labs and founder of Matter Workshop, she has created influential STEM education programmes and corporate technology training used worldwide. Her work extends into public service as an Honorary Wing Commander in the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

A bestselling author, award-winning TV presenter, and popular science podcaster, Michelle is widely respected for her ability to connect science with everyday life. Her contributions have earned numerous honours, including the MNZM for services to science communication, the Sir Peter Blake Leadership Award, the Prime Minister's Science Media Communication Prize, and the Women of Influence Award for Science & Innovation.

Dr Michelle Dickinson - Keynote Speaker

Prof. James Ross Lincoln University

Professor James Ross offers a frank and insightful look at ten years of research within the ambitious Predator Free New Zealand 2050 programme. His talk explores the successes, setbacks, and uncomfortable realities of large-scale pest management, while still highlighting the progress made and the uncertain path ahead.

With more than 20 years dedicated to the sustained control of introduced mammalian pests, Ross brings deep expertise to the conversation. At Lincoln University, he serves as Professor of Wildlife Management, Co-Director of the Centre of Wildlife Management and Conservation, and coordinator of the Master of Bioprotection and Master of International Nature Conservation programmes.

Dr. David Lilly Ecolab

David Lilly is a Staff Scientist with Ecolab Pest Elimination - Global RD&E, and is based out of Australia. In this role he is responsible for providing strategic direction to new pest management innovations and solutions across the Asia Pacific and Greater China regions.

He has over 20 years' experience in urban pest management, including both in the auditing and development of commercial pest management solutions, and providing qualified technical support to high-needs customers.

David holds a PhD from the University of Sydney, a Master of Entomology from the University of Queensland, and a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of NSW.

Mr. Junichiro Katayama

Mr Junichiro Katayama is a president of Semco Co., Ltd., the leading distributor of professional pest management products.

Semco has been concentrating on the innovating an artificial intelligence-based pest monitoring system which will potentially change the way of pest management strategy. He graduated from Kyoto University (BA in Law) in Japan and the University of Cambridge (MPhil in Economics) in UK.

He is an Honorary President of Federation of Asia and Oceania Pest Managers Association (FAOPMA) and served as a Board of Director for more than 10 years.

India McJarrow -Keller

India is an R&D scientist at Renovo Technologies in Taranaki, New Zealand, where she conducts research developing products tailored for the New Zealand and Australian pest control markets.

Her work focuses on efficacy testing, residue assessments, and evaluating adverse effects on off-target organisms. India has been key in the development of several commercial pest control products, comprising of several industry-first chemistries in Australasia.

Steve Broadbent

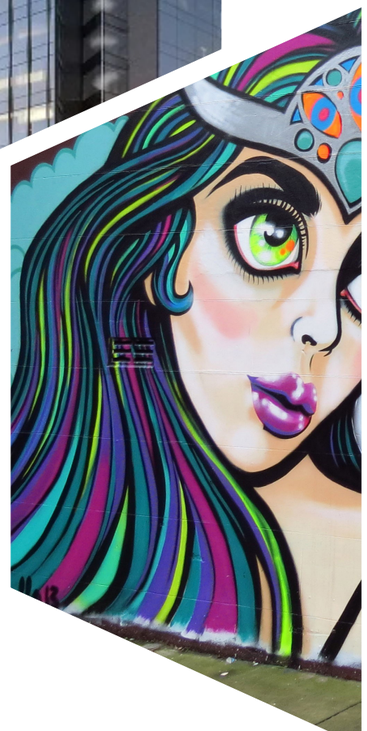
Steve Broadbent is an Applied Biology graduate whose early career as a British Government research scientist evolved into more than 45 years in global pest management. Now Ensystex's Regional Director for Australia, Southeast Asia, Southern Africa, and the Arabian Gulf, he has authored scientific papers, contributed to major technical projects worldwide, and consulted on conservation work from the Galapagos to Angkor Wat.

A frequent international speaker, Steve blends deep technical expertise with practical experience — and still finds time for wildlife photography, horse-riding, and writing, including his best-selling book Your Sacred Path.tical insight. Outside the industry, he's also the author of the best-selling Your Sacred Path and pursues passions in wildlife photography and horse-riding.

Sathes Raamachandran

Sathes Raamachandran is the CEO of Pesterminators in the Maldives and Sri Lanka, leading one of the region's most sustainability-focused pest management organisations. He serves on the Executive Board of the GPMC and as a Special Expert member of FAOPMA, contributing to global work on public health and climate-aware pest management.

With experience across Asia and the Middle East, Sathes specialises in biological control, climate-driven pest behaviour, predictive modelling, and digital monitoring. He has trained more than 1,000 professionals and frequently speaks at international industry events. He holds a Biotechnology degree, an MBA, and is a BRCGS Certified Lead Auditor, strengthening his work in risk and systems development.of Wales, and is a BRCGS Certified Lead Auditor — a combination that strengthens his work in risk management, process development, and practical, field-ready system design.



Beyond the technical sessions, Pest Summit 2026 offers a social program that showcases New Zealand's hospitality and creates space for genuine connection across the region. The event begins with a Welcome Reception in the Exhibition Hall, giving delegates their first opportunity to meet exhibitors, reconnect with colleagues, and ease into the Summit atmosphere.

The social program isn't just entertainment — it's where partnerships begin and the FAOPMA community strengthens.

A SOCIAL PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR CONNECTION

Welcome Reception — Wednesday, 15 July 2026
Held in the Exhibition Hall following the Opening Ceremony, this event sets the tone for the week, giving delegates their first chance to reconnect, meet exhibitors, and settle into the Summit atmosphere.

Australian Awards Night — Wednesday, 15 July 2026 -
Ticket Required limited seating
Running alongside the FAOPMA Executive Committee Dinner, this evening celebrates excellence within the Australian pest management industry and marks one of the first major gatherings of the Summit.

Gala Dinner — Thursday, 16 July 2026
A highlight of the week, the Gala Dinner brings the entire community together for an evening of celebration, entertainment, and networking after a full day of learning.

THINKING OF ATTENDING?

HERE ARE 7 REASONS YOU SHOULD BE AT PEST SUMMIT 2026

If you've been thinking about heading to Auckland this July, consider this your sign. The FAOPMA Pest Summit 2026 isn't just another conference — it's the biggest gathering of pest professionals in the Asia–Pacific, and this year's event is shaping up to be something special. Still need convincing? Here are seven reasons you'll want to pack your bags.

The Program Is Seriously Good
Future-focused sessions, global experts, real-world case studies — the 2026 program is stacked. Whether you're into tech, regulation, public health, or business growth, there's something that will make you think differently about the work you do.

A Keynote You Won't Want to Miss
Dr Michelle Dickinson brings science, innovation, and a bit of spark to the stage. She's known for making complex ideas accessible and exciting — exactly the kind of energy you want to kick off a Summit built around future-proofing the industry.

The Exhibition Hall Is a Playground for Pest Pros
New products, live demos, tech you can actually touch — the exhibition is where you'll discover what's coming next. It's the fastest way to compare solutions, talk directly to suppliers, and see innovations before they hit the wider market.

Networking That Doesn't Feel Like Networking
From the Welcome Reception to the Gala Dinner and Post-Conference Drinks, the social program is designed to help you connect naturally. You'll meet people from across the region, swap stories, share ideas, and build relationships that last long after the Summit ends.

Insights From Across the Asia–Pacific
FAOPMA is uniquely global. You'll hear how other countries are tackling the same challenges you face — different climates, different regulations, different approaches. It's a rare chance to broaden your perspective without leaving the building.

A Venue Worth Travelling For
The New Zealand International Convention Centre is modern, spacious, and purpose-built for events like this. Add Auckland's strong biosecurity culture and you've got the perfect backdrop for a Summit focused on smarter, safer, more sustainable pest management.

It's an Investment in You
Whether you're a business owner, technician, manager, or supplier, attending the Summit is a commitment to staying sharp, informed, and connected. You'll return with new ideas, new contacts, and a renewed sense of where the industry is heading.

Pack your curiosity (*and maybe a jacket*) — Auckland is calling, and Pest Summit 2026 is the place to be.

FAOPMA PEST SUMMIT 2026

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

AUCKLAND | NEW ZEALAND

15–17 JULY 2026

Earlybird registrations are now open, offering exceptional value for this premier international pest management event. Full delegate packages start from just NZD560 for members and NZD610 for non-members, with further savings available when registering two or more delegates.

Are you a member of AEPMA, FAOPMA or PMANZ? Request your exclusive registration code at pestsummit2026@faopma.com.
Register by 31 May 2026 to be automatically entered into the Earlybird Competition, with the chance to win €500 worth of Newpharm products, proudly sponsored by Newpharm.

To make your stay even easier, take advantage of special delegate accommodation rates at Horizon by SkyCity and SkyCity Hotel. Book via the conference website by following the accommodation links — with limited availability, we recommend securing your room early.

Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with industry leaders, discover the latest innovations, and be part of the future of pest management.
Secure your spot today - REGISTER NOW & SAVE!

For full event details and to register, visit the FAOPMA Pest Summit 2026 Conference Website.
We look forward to seeing you in Auckland!

Where to Stay for Pest Summit 2026

With Pest Summit 2026 taking place at Auckland's brand-new New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC), delegates will find accommodation couldn't be more convenient. FAOPMA has secured exclusive discounted rates at two premium SkyCity hotels—both just steps from the venue and right in the heart of Auckland's vibrant CBD .

Horizon by SkyCity, a new 5-star property connected to the NZICC via SkyBridges, offers a refined stay with touches of New Zealand design throughout. Delegates can choose between King or Twin Superior Rooms, with buffet breakfast available at The Grill. Special conference rates start at NZD $269 per night .

For those seeking comfort with a lively atmosphere, SkyCity Hotel provides a 4.5-star experience with direct access to the Sky Tower, restaurants, and entertainment precinct. Premium Rooms (King or Twin) are available from NZD $249 per night, with breakfast served daily at The Terrace .

Both hotels offer extended-stay rates from 12–18 July, though availability is limited. early booking is strongly recommended. Flexible cancellation is available up to 30 days before arrival, with standard credit-card guarantee requirements applying .

For delegates looking for comfort, convenience, and seamless access to the Summit, these SkyCity options provide the ideal base for three days of learning, networking, and connection in Auckland.

SkyCity Hotel

Horizon by SkyCity

Where Your Summit Adventure Begins

Experience the Best of Auckland and Aotearoa

Attending Pest Summit 2026 isn't just about the sessions, speakers, and exhibition — it's also your chance to experience one of the most vibrant and welcoming corners of the world. Auckland, the gateway to Aotearoa New Zealand, offers a blend of culture, cuisine, natural beauty, and world-class hospitality that turns a conference trip into something unforgettable.

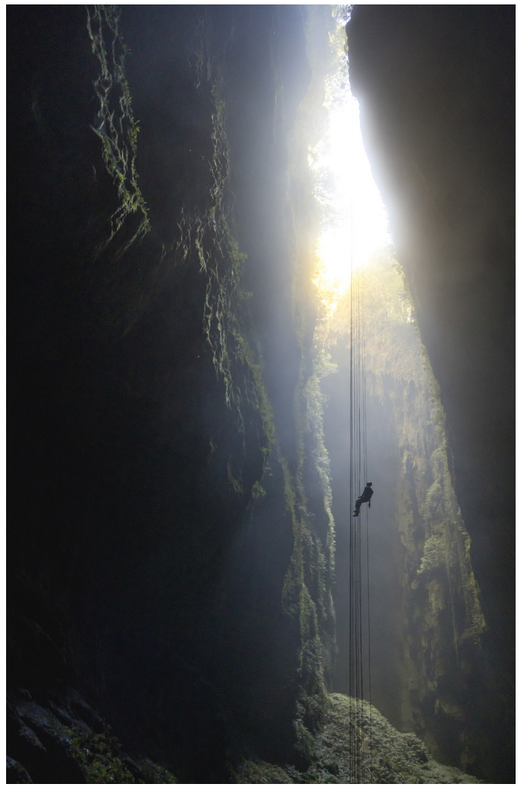
Auckland is known as the "City of Sails" for good reason. With sparkling harbours on both sides and a skyline framed by volcanic peaks, it's a place where the outdoors is always within reach. Take a stroll along the waterfront, explore the Viaduct precinct, or simply enjoy the views from the NZICC — the city's energy is infectious.

Auckland City skyline

Culture That Runs Deep

Aotearoa's rich Māori heritage is woven into everyday life.

Visitors can experience:
- Māori art and carving
- Cultural performances
- Stories of manaakitanga (hospitality) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship)



WHETHER IT'S YOUR FIRST VISIT OR YOUR FIFTH, AUCKLAND HAS A WAY OF MAKING YOU FEEL AT HOME. FRIENDLY LOCALS, STUNNING LANDSCAPES, AND A CULTURE BUILT ON GENUINE HOSPITALITY ENSURE YOUR SUMMIT EXPERIENCE EXTENDS FAR BEYOND THE CONFERENCE WALLS.

New Zealand is compact, easy to explore, and full of surprises.

FAOPMA EXCO 2025 - 2027

INTRODUCING THE FAOPMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FAOPMA started its new term with a refreshed Executive Committee representing the depth, diversity, and experience of our region. Under the leadership of President Raju Parulkar, the Exco brings together respected industry figures from across Asia–Oceania, each committed to strengthening collaboration, raising professional standards, and supporting the continued growth of the pest management sector.

This team reflects the collective strength of FAOPMA's member associations — a group united by shared purpose and a clear focus on the future. With a strong mix of experience, regional insight, and forward-looking leadership, the new Executive Committee is well positioned to guide FAOPMA through its next chapter

President - Mr Raju Parulkar

Vice President - Mr Gerwyn Jones

Treasurer - Ms Bavani Palanivellu

Exco Member - Mr Rob Boschma

ExCo Member - Ms Regine Lim

Special Expert Member - Mr Sathes Chandran

Special Expert Member - Ms Catherine Baisas

Administrator - Mr Stephen Ware

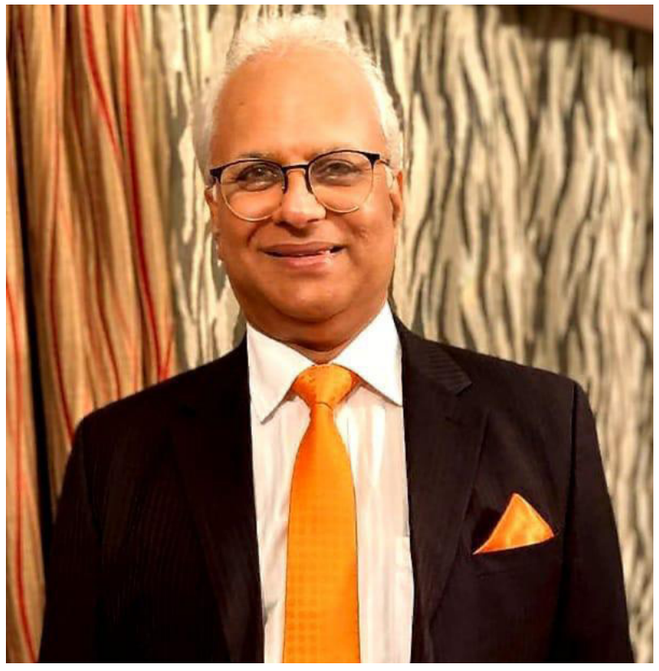
Past President - Mr Taro Kanazawa

Representing the founder member IPCA, I carry forward the 56-year legacy of India's premier pest management association and the collective wisdom of its past leaders. I look forward to using the FAOPMA platform to strengthen collaboration, inclusivity, and progress across Asia–Oceania and the global pest management industry.

WELCOME

The guiding principle from the Shri Bhagavad Gita — "(Karmanye Vadhikaraste, Ma phaleshou kada chana) — reminds us to focus on our actions and responsibilities without attachment to the outcomes. With this philosophy at heart, I am honoured to have been entrusted with the FAOPMA Presidency for 2025–2027. My commitment is to work for the growth, recognition, and welfare of our hardworking pest management community, uniting our region under the spirit of (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam) — the world is one family.

I WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS, FEEDBACK, AND IDEAS FOR THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF OUR INDUSTRY.



RAJU PARULKAR

FAOPMA PRESIDENT (2025–2027), REPRESENTING IPCA AND BRINGING DECADES OF INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP TO THE ASIA–OCEANIA REGION.

You can reach me at president@faopma.com.

HONORING FAOPMA PAST PRESIDENT MR TARO KANAZAWA

Taro Kanazawa's term as FAOPMA President marked a period of steady leadership, regional cooperation, and a clear commitment to strengthening the pest management profession across Asia–Oceania. Representing the Japan Pest Control Association (JPCA), Taro brought a calm, thoughtful approach to the role, grounded in decades of industry experience and a deep respect for FAOPMA's mission.

During his presidency, he championed stronger ties between member associations, encouraged knowledge-sharing across borders, and supported initiatives that elevated training, professionalism, and industry standards. His focus on collaboration helped reinforce FAOPMA's position as a unifying voice for the region — one that brings together diverse countries, cultures, and regulatory environments under a shared purpose.

Taro's leadership was also marked by his support for the continued growth of the FAOPMA Pest Summit. Under his guidance, the Summit strengthened its reputation as the region's premier gathering for education, innovation, and industry connection.

As he steps into the role of Past President, Taro Kanazawa leaves behind a legacy of stability, cooperation, and quiet but impactful leadership. His contributions have helped position FAOPMA for its next chapter.

Leadership with Purpose

As he steps into the role of Past President, Taro Kanazawa leaves behind a legacy of stability, cooperation, and quiet but impactful leadership. His contributions have helped position FAOPMA for its next chapter, and his ongoing presence within the organisation remains a valued source of wisdom and continuity.

Pest Summit 2025

MPMA PEST SUMMIT TEAM AT FAOPMA 2025

Victor Phabos

Penang 2025

Pest Summit 2025 Delivered a Landmark Gathering for the Region

Across three days, the summit organised by the Malaysia Pest Management Association (MPMA) was held at the St Giles Wembley Hotel in Penang.

In total, more than 1,300 delegates from 20 countries attended the gathering, alongside 48 exhibit booths representing pest management companies and a strong line-up of local and international speakers.

At the official opening, the event was launched by Penang State Executive Councillor for Tourism and Creative Economy, YB Wong Hon Wai, accompanied by Penang City Council Mayor Dato A. Rajendran.

Receiving the delegation, Mr Belvin Lee, Organising Chairman, together with Ms Regine Lim, President of MPMA, and committee members welcomed guests and officials.

In his address, YB Wong highlighted that Penang's economy thrived on tourism, both leisure and business, and that this success depended on world-class cleanliness standards.

Emphasising expectations, he noted that effective pest management was not merely a regulatory requirement but a commitment to public health and quality, ensuring food safety in hawker centres and the protection of hotels and properties across the state.

On enforcement, he explained that regulatory actions formed part of a proactive strategy to ensure accountability and uphold high hygiene benchmarks, reinforcing Penang's position as a clean and well-managed destination.

Following the formalities, YB Wong toured the exhibition floor and met with delegates and exhibitors.

Under the theme "Evolution of Pest Management," discussions focused on the future of the industry, spanning technology, innovation, sustainability, and public health, with a strong emphasis on emerging tools and preventative approaches.

Beyond the conference sessions, the Gala Dinner was held as a masquerade-themed event, providing a highlight social function for delegates and guests.

As part of the celebrations, the FAOPMA Awards were presented during the summit program.

Regionally, FAOPMA Pest Summit 2025 reaffirmed its status as the largest pest management conference in the Asia–Pacific, delivering extensive discussion led by international speakers.

In appreciation, FAOPMA extended its thanks to Mr Belvin Lee, Organising Chairman, Ms Regine Lim, President of the Malaysia Pest Management Association, and the entire MPMA organising team for delivering a highly successful and professionally run summit.

On behalf of FAOPMA, I extend my sincere thanks to the Malaysian Pest Management Association (MPMA) for hosting Pest Summit 2025 in Penang.

Under the leadership of President Ms Regine Lim and Conference Chairman Mr Belven Lee, MPMA delivered an exceptionally well-organised event that showcased professionalism, warm hospitality, and strong commitment to our industry.

With more than 1,200 delegates in attendance, the Summit strengthened regional collaboration and set a high benchmark for future FAOPMA gatherings.

I thank the entire MPMA team for their dedication and outstanding contribution to this year's success.laboration, and unity across our region.
Raju Parulkar
FAOPMA President

Summit Snapshots

Pesterminators Crowned FAOPMA's Sustainability Champion

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
SPONSORED BY ENSYSTEX®

Carbon neutrality set them apart. As the first pest management company in the Maldives to achieve verified carbon-neutral status, Pesterminators Pvt Ltd impressed judge Steve Broadbent with a sustainability framework built on innovation, measurable impact, and national leadership.

CARBON NEUTRALITY

VERIFIED UNDER ISO 14064, PESTERMINATORS' CARBON-NEUTRAL STATUS REFLECTS EXCEPTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY, WITH ALL OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS MEASURED AND OFFSET THROUGH CERTIFIED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

In a region where environmental fragility shapes every decision, Pesterminators Pvt Ltd has emerged as a leader redefining what responsible pest management looks like. This year, their unwavering commitment to measurable, science-driven sustainability has earned them the FAOPMA Sustainability Award 2025 – **Sponsored by Ensystex.**

For judge Steve Broadbent, one achievement stood out above all others:
"Pesterminators is the first and only carbon-neutral pest management company in the Maldives.
In an industry often challenged by chemical dependency and operational emissions, this milestone is not symbolic — it is transformational"

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Steve Broadbent Ensystex Regional Director – Australia, SE Asia, S Africa & Gulf Region &
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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

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3 JUNE, WEDNESDAY

12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Global Pest Management Coalition Meeting

4 JUNE, THURSDAY

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	World Health Organization Briefing on Vector-Borne Disease: Global Trends, Emerging Threats, and the Role of Pest Management *Ramen Velayudhan, PhD, World Health Organization (Retired), Switzerland*
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM	The Urban Pest Management Industry's Role in the Global One Health Concept *Marc Aubry, PhD, Ecolab Pest France, President CEPA (Citizen. European. Professional. Aspirational), France*
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM	Networking Lunch and Exhibits
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Cracking the Cockroach Code Using the Latest Advances in Pest Management Research *Chow Yang Lee, PhD, University of California-Riverside, USA*
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	New Research Insights into Roof Rat and Norway Rat Management *Niamh Quinn, PhD, University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, USA*
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Refreshment Break and Exhibits
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Applying the Pest Risk Matrix to Improve Pest Management and Protect Public Health *Taro Kanazawa, HYSIA, Japan*
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Networking Reception and Exhibits

5 JUNE, FRIDAY

7:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Registration
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	World Pest Day Celebration and Welcome Remarks
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Disaster-Ready: Pest Control Professionals on the Frontlines of Vector Defense *Abdelkarim Alghourfi, Moroccan Pest Management Association (AM3D), Morocco; Viren Merchant, Indian Pest Control Association, India*
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Keeping Up with the Modernization of Today's Food Safety Audit Schemes *Elizabeth Andoh-Kesson , GFSI Interim Director, France (Invited); Ray Jin, British Retail Consortium Global Services, China; Jeff Wilson, AIB International, United Kingdom*
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	Refreshment Break and Exhibits
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM	How New Technologies Are Evolving Pest Control in Food Handling Facilities *Junichiro Katayama, Semco, Co. Ltd, Japan*
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Networking Lunch and Exhibits
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	The Four Pillars of Exclusion: An Innovative Approach to Food Safety *Daniel Baldwin, BCE, Hawx Services, USA*
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	Future-Proofing Pest Management: Sustainable Practices for a Stronger Industry *Sathes Chandran, Pesterminators, Maldives; Steven Nyland, Anticimex, USA (Invited)*
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	Final Joint Panel Q&A

Why these tiny moisture-loving beetles are appearing more often and how to tell them apart from grain pests.

PLASTER BEETLES WHAT DO WE KNOW? ABOUT THEM?

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY GERWYN JONES - VICE PRESIDENT FAOPMA

Recently, a customer requested an identification of a pest found in a hotel complex. At first glance, based on the photographs provided, it was assumed it was a common stored product insect (SPI), which we all know can wreak havoc in commercial environments like warehouses, hotels, and food processing facilities. SPIs typically pose a significant threat to food supplies, damaging stock, contaminating products, and leading to substantial financial losses.

However, upon closer inspection, and once it was established that the beetles were found in their hundreds, falling from the ceiling of a hotel room, it was realised that this wasn't a typical SPI infestation.

The culprit in this case belonged to the family Latridiidae, commonly referred to as "minute brown scavenger beetles" or "fungus beetles." In parts of Asia Pacific, they are more commonly known as Plaster Beetles. Though small, these beetles can become a nuisance, especially when they infest areas in large numbers. When the regions enter into its colder and wetter months, it's essential for pest management professionals to understand how to correctly identify and manage plaster beetles before they become a larger issue.

As we see changes in building standards and a greater focus on insulation, homes and commercial properties are becoming more energy-efficient but also more prone to moisture-related problems.

Older buildings, which are often draftier, tend to have less of an issue with condensation, but modern, well-sealed buildings may create the perfect environment for moisture build-up. Couple this with the damp, cooler climates, especially during autumn and winter, and it's clear why plaster beetle infestations are becoming more frequent.

They thrive in these moist environments, feeding on the fungi and mould that grow in areas affected by poor ventilation and water damage.

One of the key challenges faced by pest control technicians is the correct identification of Plaster beetles. They are often confused with the merchant grain beetle (Oryzaephilus mercator) because of their similar appearance. However, there are critical differences in biology, behaviour, and the environments in which these pests thrive, and recognising these differences is essential for effective pest control.

plaster beetles are typically smaller, ranging from 1 to 3 millimetres in length, with an elongated, oval body. Their colour varies from light to dark brown, and their surface can appear slightly textured or ridged. They are distinguished by their short antennae, which have club-like segments at the tips. In contrast, the merchant grain beetle is slightly larger, ranging from 2.5 to 3.5 millimetres, with a more flattened body and a distinctively serrated outline along the sides of the thorax. The merchant grain beetle also has more prominent antennae.

THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN CONTROLLING A PLASTER BEETLE INFESTATION IS TO IDENTIFY AND ELIMINATE ANY SOURCES OF MOISTURE.

Common Environments for Plaster Beetles

Plaster beetles prefer environments where moisture has allowed mould or fungal growth to occur. They are often found in areas that have experienced water leakage or high humidity levels, such as basements, attics, poorly ventilated rooms, or older structures with plaster walls. Damp food packaging, wall cavities, and even wooden structures can all harbour mould growth that provides a suitable food source for plaster beetles.

The presence of these beetles is not directly harmful to human health; however, their large numbers can contaminate food products and degrade the quality of stored goods. Their small size allows them to infiltrate cracks and crevices, and when infestations occur, they are often found in large groups, as was the case with the hotel infestation I encountered. It's important to remember that plaster beetles do not directly damage food products like grain pests do; rather, they are drawn to the moisture and mould present in the environment.

Managing Plaster Beetle Infestations

For pest management professionals, addressing plaster beetle infestations requires a multi-faceted approach that targets both the beetles and the underlying environmental conditions that attract them. Here are some key strategies to consider when dealing with an infestation:

Eliminate Moisture Sources
The first and most important step in controlling a Plaster beetle infestation is to identify and eliminate any sources of moisture. This could be a leaking pipe, a poorly ventilated room, or condensation forming on walls and ceilings. Fixing these issues is essential, as moisture is what promotes the growth of mould and fungi, the primary food source for Plaster beetles. In some cases, improving ventilation or installing dehumidifiers may be necessary to reduce humidity levels.

Clean and Sanitise Affected Areas
After addressing the moisture problem, thoroughly clean the affected areas to remove any mould or fungal growth. This can be done using a fungicide or a bleach solution, making sure to clean cracks, crevices, and other hard-to-reach areas where beetles may be hiding. Regular cleaning of these areas can prevent future infestations.

Remove Contaminated Goods
If the infestation has spread to stored food products, such as cereals or flour, it's essential to discard any goods showing signs of mould or fungal contamination. Since Plaster beetles can easily hide in the folds of packaging, it's crucial to inspect all stored goods carefully.

Insecticide Treatment
In severe cases, an insecticide treatment may be necessary. Choose insecticides specifically labelled for stored-product pests, and focus on treating cracks, crevices, and areas where beetles are likely to hide. However, it's important to note that insecticides should be a last resort after moisture and hygiene issues have been addressed.

Monitor and Prevent Re-Infestation
After treatment, continue to monitor the area for any signs of beetle reappearance. Traps and visual inspections can help assess whether the infestation has been successfully eradicated. Regular monitoring is also essential for preventing future infestations, especially in high-risk areas prone to moisture problems.

How to Prevent them from coming back!
The key to long-term control of Plaster beetles is prevention. By eliminating moisture sources and ensuring proper storage and hygiene practices, future infestations can be avoided. Here are some effective preventive measures for pest technicians to recommend to their clients:

Maintain Dry, Well-Ventilated Areas
Ensure that storage areas are kept dry and well-ventilated. Humidity levels should be kept below 50% to prevent the growth of mould and fungi.

Regular Inspections of Food Products
Clients should be advised to regularly inspect incoming food shipments for signs of moisture or fungal contamination. Any products that show signs of mould should be rejected.

Proper Storage
Store dry goods in airtight containers to prevent moisture exposure and the growth of fungi. This not only helps to prevent Plaster beetle infestations but also reduces the risk of contamination from other stored product pests, including the merchant grain beetle.

Cleanliness and Routine Inspections
Keep storage areas clean and free from dust, debris, and moisture. Routine inspections should be scheduled to detect any early signs of mould, beetles, or other pests.

Use of Monitoring Devices
Pheromone traps and other monitoring devices designed for stored-product pests can be deployed to detect early signs of beetle activity. These devices are an excellent tool for technicians to assess potential infestations before they become a significant problem.

Plaster Beetle or Merchant Grain Beetle: Why It Matters?

While both Plaster beetles and merchant grain beetles are small, brown, and often found near stored food products, the distinction between the two is critical for effective pest control. Misidentifying a plaster beetle infestation as a grain beetle problem could lead to ineffective treatments. Plaster beetles require moisture control and hygiene improvements, whereas merchant grain beetles need direct treatment targeting food products.

Understanding the biology and habits of Plaster beetles is essential for their proper identification, treatment, and prevention. By addressing the root causes of infestations and adopting a proactive approach, Plaster beetle infestations can be effectively managed, ensuring that stored products remain safe and uncontaminated.

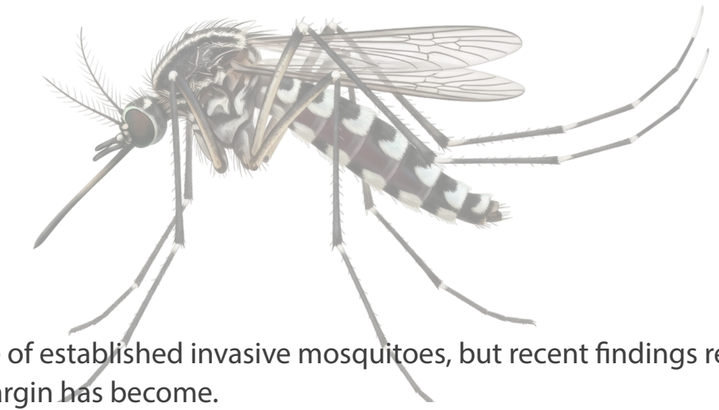
A range of plaster beetles. Source: bugguide.net

Invasive mosquitoes edge closer to Britain

Based on Johnston CJ et al., 2025, PLOS Global Public Health 5 (10): e0004968

Invasive mosquitoes are edging ever closer to Britain's borders, and the latest national surveillance data shows just how quickly the threat is evolving. A new study from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and its research partners reveals that while no invasive species have yet established themselves in the country, Aedes mosquitoes are now arriving with increasing frequency.

First-ever detections of Aedes aegypti eggs near Heathrow in 2023 and fresh incursions of Aedes albopictus in Kent in 2024 underscore a simple reality: the UK's defences are holding, but the pressure at the border is rising. As Europe experiences record outbreaks of dengue and climate conditions shift northward, Britain's vigilance—and the role of pest-management professionals within it—has never been more critical.



Britain remains free of established invasive mosquitoes, but recent findings reveal how narrow the margin has become.

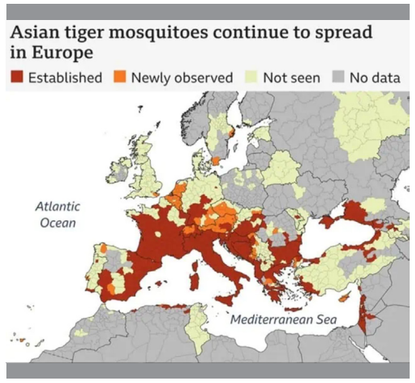
A single tyre, bucket, or blocked drain is all an Aedes mosquito needs to gain a foothold.

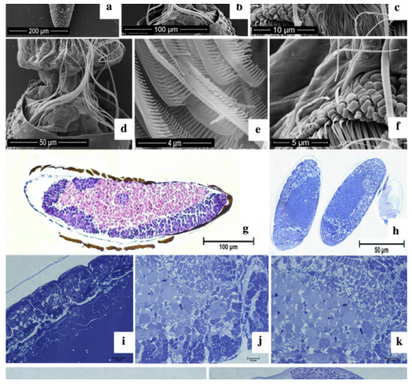
- The UK has kept invasive mosquitoes at the border for now. Whether that continues depends on vigilance—from scientists, authorities, and every technician on the ground."

Over the past five years the UK has quietly stepped up its defences against one of the world's most adaptable and troublesome insects. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), together with universities, councils, and public-health partners, has been running a nationwide surveillance programme to detect any sign of invasive mosquito species arriving on British soil. Their latest report, published in PLOS Global Public Health (Johnston et al., 2025), brings both reassurance and concern.

Between 2020 and 2024, more than a thousand ovitraps were operated at 117 locations across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The traps targeted two species of particular importance: Aedes albopictus, the Asian tiger mosquito, and Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito. Both are capable of transmitting dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses. The study confirmed that Britain remains free from established populations, yet it also recorded the country's first detection of Ae. aegypti eggs near Heathrow Airport in 2023 and four Ae. albopictus eggs at a Kent motorway service station in 2024. Each was contained swiftly, but both mark how close the threat has come.

The surveillance programme began back in 2010 under the Health Protection Agency and has since evolved into one of Europe's most comprehensive. Early work revealed that lorry traffic from continental Europe could transport Aedes mosquitoes hidden among goods or inside vehicles. The first positive traps were found in 2016 and again in 2017 at sites in Kent, leading to rapid control measures under the National Contingency





Plan for Invasive Mosquitoes. Those operations involved litter removal, drain treatment, and intensive follow-up trapping until no further eggs were found. The system worked then, and it has worked again more recently, but the frequency of incursions is increasing.

The pandemic temporarily changed the picture. Travel restrictions and a sharp fall in freight movement reduced the likelihood of mosquitoes hitching a ride, and between 2020 and 2022 not a single invasive specimen was detected. When trade and travel returned to normal, so did the risk.

In September 2023, two eggs recovered from an ovitrap beside a Heathrow freight warehouse were confirmed by microscopy and DNA sequencing as Aedes aegypti. It was the first verified record of this species' eggs in Britain. Within 24 hours the UKHSA's Medical Entomology and Zoonoses Ecology team convened a multi-agency incident meeting with airport authorities and local councils. Additional traps were deployed within a 300-metre radius, drains were checked, and standing water removed. Two weeks of round-the-clock surveillance found no further signs of activity, suggesting that the eggs had arrived in imported freight rather than from a local breeding population.

The following year brought another surprise. In August 2024, four Aedes albopictus eggs were found in a trap beside a fast-food drive-through at a service station along the M20 near Maidstone. The site lies about 40 miles from Dover and is heavily used by freight vehicles from mainland Europe. Once again, a joint team of the UKHSA, the local health protection service, and the Mid Kent Environmental Health Service moved quickly. Litter was cleared, drains treated with a silicone-based monomolecular film, and additional traps installed and checked every few days.

No further eggs or adults were detected, and the incident was closed after two weeks. Genetic analysis confirmed the identification. It was the seventh UK detection of Ae. albopictus since 2016, each time successfully contained before the species could take hold.

Behind the scenes the scale of the UK's surveillance has grown enormously. By 2024 more than seventy organisations were involved. Active monitoring used over a thousand ovitraps, while adult-mosquito projects operated more than three hundred traps under research programmes such as Culex and Vector-Borne RADAR. Alongside this professional network runs the Mosquito Recording Scheme, which invites members of the public to submit photographs or specimens.

From 2020 to 2024 it received over three hundred submissions, none of which proved to be invasive species. New citizen-science apps such as Mosquito Alert and iNaturalist now supplement these efforts, giving the UKHSA a near-real-time picture of mosquito activity across the country.

The absence of established populations is encouraging, but the broader European context is not. Over the past decade Aedes albopictus has advanced northwards through France and into Belgium and the Netherlands. In 2024, France reported 82 locally acquired dengue cases, and Italy's Marche region experienced the largest dengue outbreak ever recorded in Europe, with 199 cases. Warmer temperatures, milder winters, and increased rainfall have expanded the climatic range in which these mosquitoes can survive. Studies suggest that parts of southern England now have conditions similar to northern France, where Ae. albopictus is already entrenched.

Unlike its tropical cousin Ae. aegypti, the Asian tiger mosquito can tolerate cooler climates because its eggs can enter diapause, a form of dormancy that allows them to withstand mild frosts. With average winter temperatures in the southeast creeping upwards, the risk of overwintering populations is no longer theoretical. Models indicate that once mean January temperatures rise above four to five degrees Celsius, southern England could support breeding populations. That threshold may soon be reached.

For pest-management professionals, this work has immediate relevance. The surveillance network depends not only on scientists and local authorities but also on pest-control operators who notice unusual larvae or adults during their routine work. Awareness training can make a difference. A small pool of water in a disused tyre or bucket is all these mosquitoes need. Recognising eggs or larvae, capturing specimens, and reporting them through the proper channels could prevent establishment. Every technician on the ground effectively becomes part of the national bio-security effort.

The cost of inaction is considerable. Globally, the economic burden of Aedes-borne diseases is estimated to be ten times greater than the cost of surveillance and early intervention. Once invasive mosquitoes become established, elimination is extremely difficult, and control becomes a constant expense. The UKHSA programme demonstrates that a coordinated, proactive approach remains the most cost-effective defence.

Each detection in the UK has triggered the same disciplined response: confirmation by laboratory experts, an incident meeting, enhanced local trapping, habitat reduction, and monitoring for at least two weeks. When no further specimens appear, normal surveillance resumes. This process, refined since 2010, mirrors European best practice and has so far prevented establishment. It also reinforces the importance of collaboration across sectors. Councils, the NHS, universities, pest-control companies, and the public all play their part.

The overall message from Johnston and colleagues is that the system works but must not relax. Britain's climate still limits the survival of Aedes aegypti, yet Aedes albopictus is better adapted to cooler weather and continues to edge north across Europe.

Each warm, wet summer increases the odds of a successful introduction. The UK remains free of established invasive mosquitoes, but their arrival is inevitable. The question is not whether they will reach us, but whether we are ready when they do. The UKHSA's expanding network, coupled with public engagement and the support of the pest-management profession, provides that readiness. The country's first detections of Aedes aegypti and renewed sightings of Aedes albopictus serve as a timely reminder that vigilance is our best defence.

Continued funding, coordination, and communication between science, government, and industry will determine whether the UK can continue to keep these unwanted invaders at the border.

Reference:
Johnston CJ, Edwards AC, Vaux AGC, Abbott AJ, Hardy H, Wilson R, et al. (2025). Invasive mosquito surveillance in the United Kingdom 2020 to 2024: First detection of Aedes aegypti eggs in the UK and further detection of Aedes albopictus. PLOS Global Public Health 5 (10): e0004968. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0004968

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