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Bed Bugs Limited

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Faecal trace confirmation kit for confirming damaged identification samples.

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Summary

Offering a postal sample identification service can at times result in less than well preserved samples arriving for inspection.

In the case of one recent sample the pressure applied in order to immobilise the bedbug under the tape was so great that none of the features of the head section were clear enough to be certain under either 30X or 60X magnification. The sample was placed under a digital microscope for 60X analysis (image below).

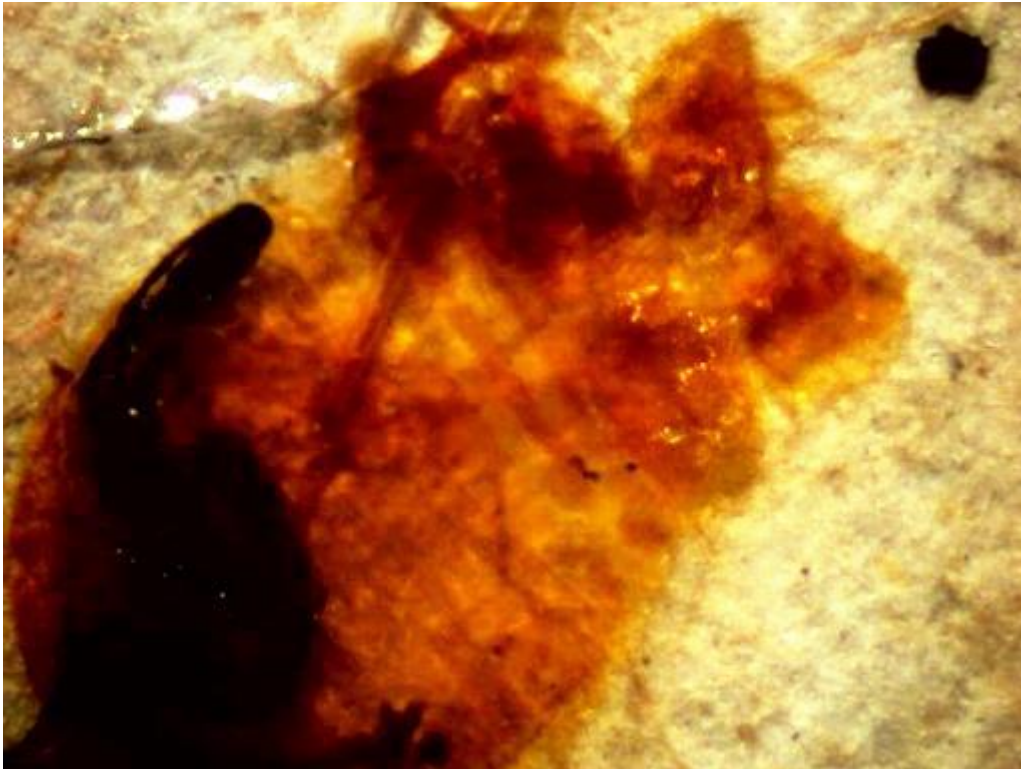


Image of the sample sent for identification using a 60X digital microscope.

Although it was clear that it was highly likely to be bedbug or closely related we have never failed to give a 100% certain confirmation of identity in the past.

Method

The layers of clear tape were carefully removed to provide access to the suspected faecal material. The cotton swab was wetted with the developer solution and the kit tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Results

Although the amount of material was so small that the colour indication was small it was none the less obvious to the human eye as a thin blue line.

Conclusions

In the absence of a 100% conclusive sample evacuated faecal material can still be used to confirm that a sample is bedbug or closely related to ensure a 100% accurate identification.

We have now modified the companies standard operating procedures to incorporate this is as acceptable confirming evidence of bedbugs in such situations.

Bed Bug Blue continues to be an invaluable resource for both our field and office based teams in confirming samples as bedbug related. In this specific example I would not have been happy accepting the sample alone before committing to visit the site which was about 75 miles from our base of operations.

