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Useful information and professional treatment solutions.

Bed Bugs Limited

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Bite response pictures from bedbug colony feeding Sept 2011

Contents

About bedbug feeding.....	3
Pictures.....	3
Additional symptoms.....	9
Conclusions.....	9



About bedbug feeding

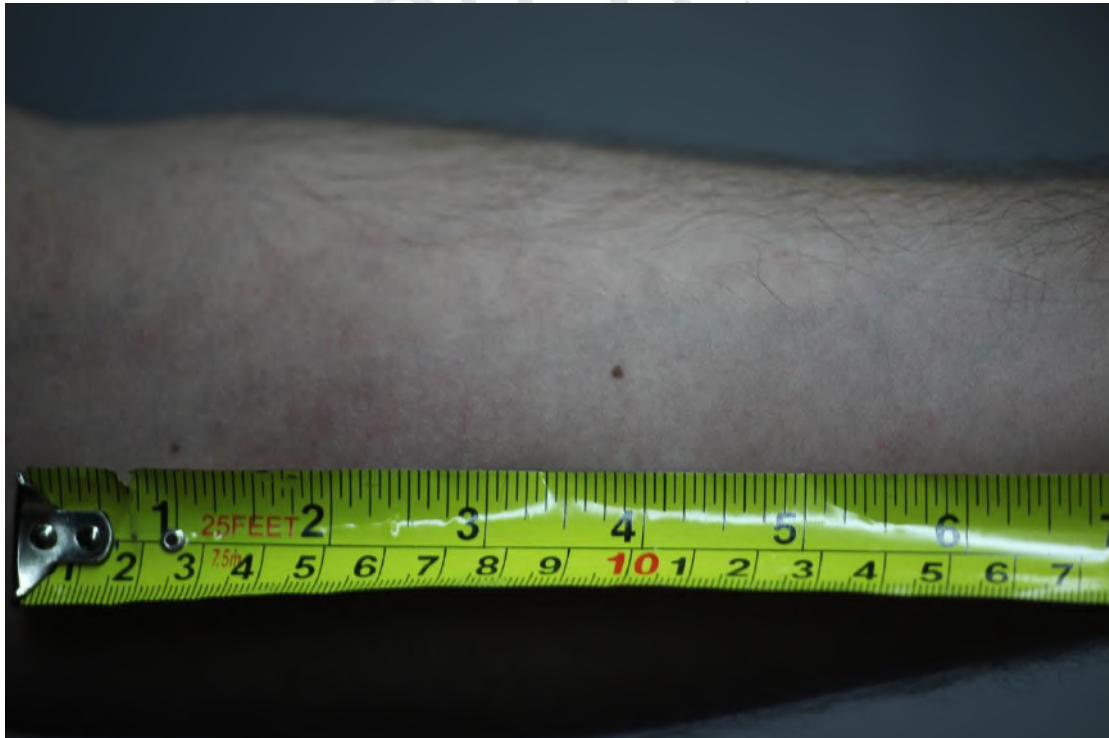
In order to maintain bedbugs for research we must feed the colonies. To facilitate this they are kept in mesh topped mason jars and generally fed once a week using the inverted jar method.

Most entomologists will confirm that this is not recommended as a long term strategy but our colony is simply too large for other feeding methods.

If it's not clear enough already do not do this at home.

Pictures

Below are pictures from one evenings bedbug feeding, 3 jars about 15 minutes apart each.



The control shot before I started. The faint marks between 1 inch and 3 inches on the scale are previous recent feeding locations. There is sometimes a small discolouration that lasts a week or so.



The feeding begins.



Immediately after feeding



After 60 seconds.



A few minutes later the area continues to redden and starts to swell.



After 3 or 4 minutes you can start to see the bitten area become raised and sensitive.



After 5 minutes you can clearly see the raised area around the bites.



Immediately after the second feeding session concluded.



A few minutes after the 2nd feeding concluded.



Immediately after the 3rd feeding has concluded



A few minutes after the 3rd feeding session has finished.



The next day, thankfully I heal quickly and had a large iron rich BBQ dinner shortly after concluding this weeks feeding.

Additional symptoms

At this level I can actually feel some of the bites occurring, I assume this is when a nerve or sensitive area is being fed upon. It is not an excruciatingly painful sensation but neither can it considered to be pleased.

The bites often feel very warm to the touch for 30 minutes after feeding as the immune response kicks in and white blood cells flood the area.

They do itch severely for a few minutes but gentle rubbing rather than scratching helps a lot.

On this occasion I also felt very light headed and floaty which resolved after a sugary coffee. This may have been as a result of a mild endorphin high induced by the skin damage but could also have been as a result of a lack of food on a busy day.

Conclusions

There is little scientifically we can conclude from this type of test and it is done more as an illustration that if left to resolve themselves even the most aggressive bites can subside with no long term skin damage.

Again do not attempt this at home.