



Spatial Distribution and Movement of House Mice: Implications for Rodent Management Practices for Food Safety & Public Health

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Public Health Importance



Public Health Importance

Commensal Rodents and the
History of Disease

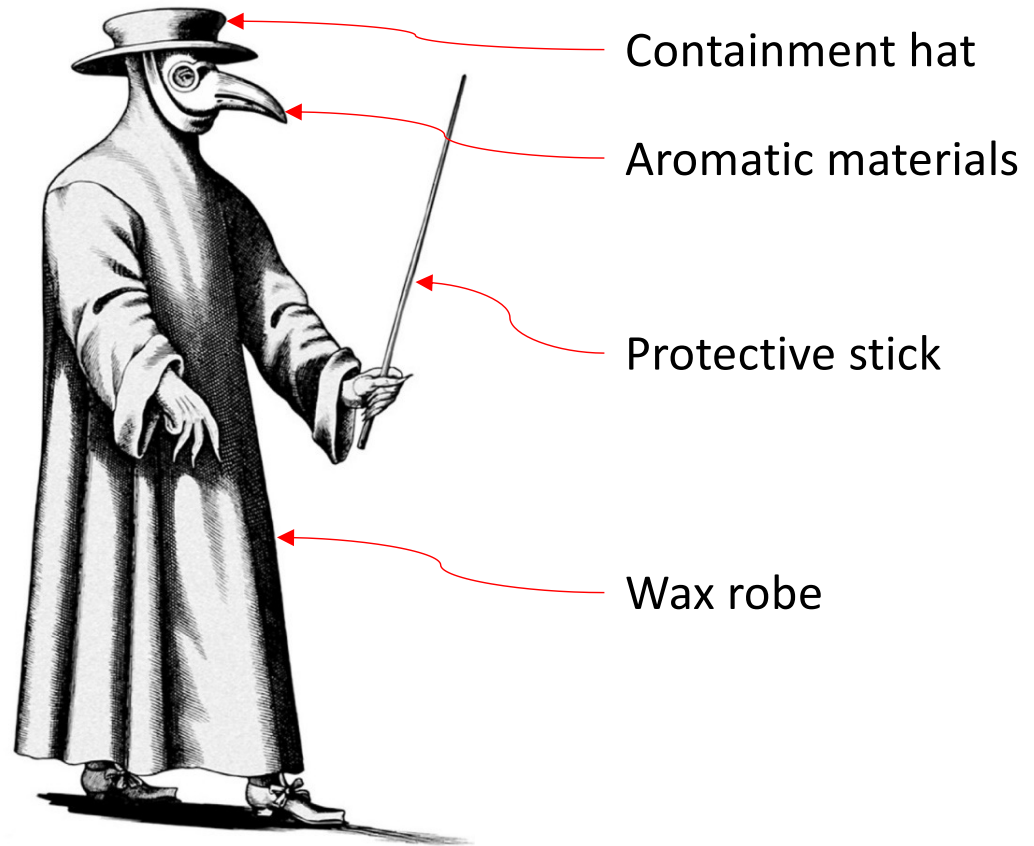


Yersinia pestis

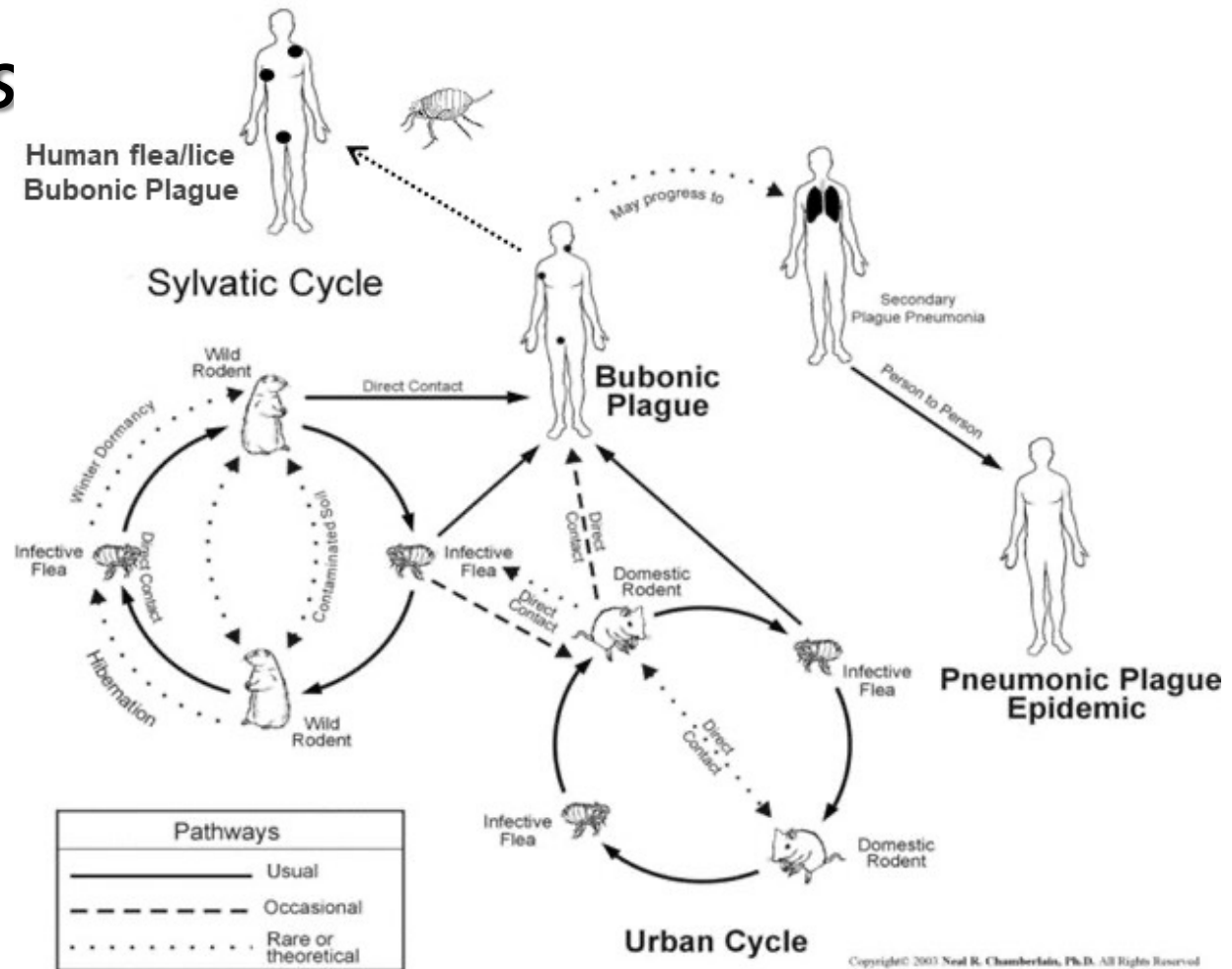
- ~1,800 BCE: Bronze age skeleton had DNA genomic material for plague
- ~1,000 BCE: Biblical (1 Samuel) discusses Philistines & “rodent tumors”
- 541 BCE: Justinian plague (India > Constantinople)
 - 15 subsequent waves through 750 CE (AD) from Persia to Ireland
- 1347 CE: Black Death-Messina, Sicily from Genoese ships from Asia
 - 1/3 (25 million) of European population succumbs
 - 1348 CE – France>Spain>Germany>Switzerland>Austria
 - 1349 CE – London
- 1665 CE: London lost 1/4th of its population

Yersinia pestis

- 1st HazMat Suit!



Yersinia pestis



Baril et al. 2019. Can we make human plague history? A call to action. *BMJ Global Health* 4(6):e001984



© 1750-1799 Metropolitan Museum of Art



H. Tiffin and Son Ltd.
1st PCO 1690, London
Bed bugs and Rats

Public Health Importance

Commensal Rodents and the
History of Disease



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Public Health Importance

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The House Mouse





Public Health Importance

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History of Disease

The House Mouse

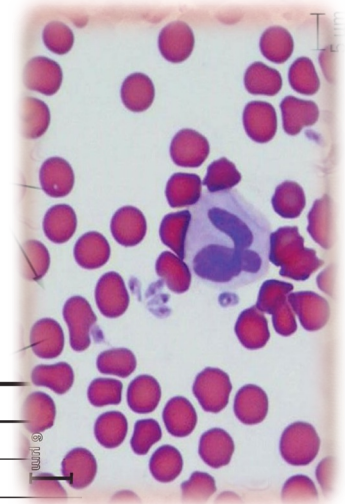
Public Health Importance

- Disease causing organisms carried:
 - 7 ectoparasites and 14 endoparasites (Battersby et al. 2008)

Table 12.1. Zoonoses associated with commensal rodents

Human disease	Ectoparasites
Bubonic plague	Asiatic rat flea – <i>Y. pestis</i>
LBRF	Body louse – <i>B. recurrentis</i>
Tick-borne relapsing fever	Ticks (<i>Ornithodoros hermsi</i>) – <i>Borrelia</i> spp.
Lyme disease	Ticks (<i>Ixodes</i> spp.) – <i>B. burgdorferi</i>
Rickettsial pox ^a	Rodent mite (<i>Liponyssoides sanguineus</i>) – <i>Rickettsia akari</i>
Murine typhus ^a	Asiatic rat flea – <i>R. typhi</i> Body louse – <i>R. typhi</i>

Human disease	Endoparasites
Capillariasis	<i>Capillaria</i> spp.
Toxocariasis	<i>Toxocara</i> spp.
Rat tapeworm infection	<i>Hymenolepis nana</i>
Diarrhoeal disease	<i>Trichuris</i> spp.
Diarrhoeal disease	<i>Hymenolepis</i> spp.
Diarrhoeal disease	<i>Taenia</i> spp.
Schistosomiasis ***	<i>Schistosoma</i> spp.
Trichinellosis*	<i>Trichinella</i> spp.
Cryptosporidiosis ^a	<i>C. parvum</i>
Toxoplasmosis ^a	<i>T. gondii</i>
Babesiosis	<i>Babesia</i> spp.
Sarcosporidiosis	<i>Sarcocystis</i> spp.
Coccidiosis	<i>Coccidia</i> (<i>Eimeria</i> spp.)
Amoebic dysentery	<i>Entamoeba</i> spp.





Public Health Importance

- Disease causing organisms carried:
 - 36 viruses ([Williams et al. 2018b](#), [Meerburg et al. 2009](#)) with 6 of those being novel
 - Hantavirus ([Mills and Childs 1998](#))
 - Tamiami ([Calisher et al. 1970](#))
 - Whitewater Arroyo Virus ([Fulhorst et al. 1996](#))



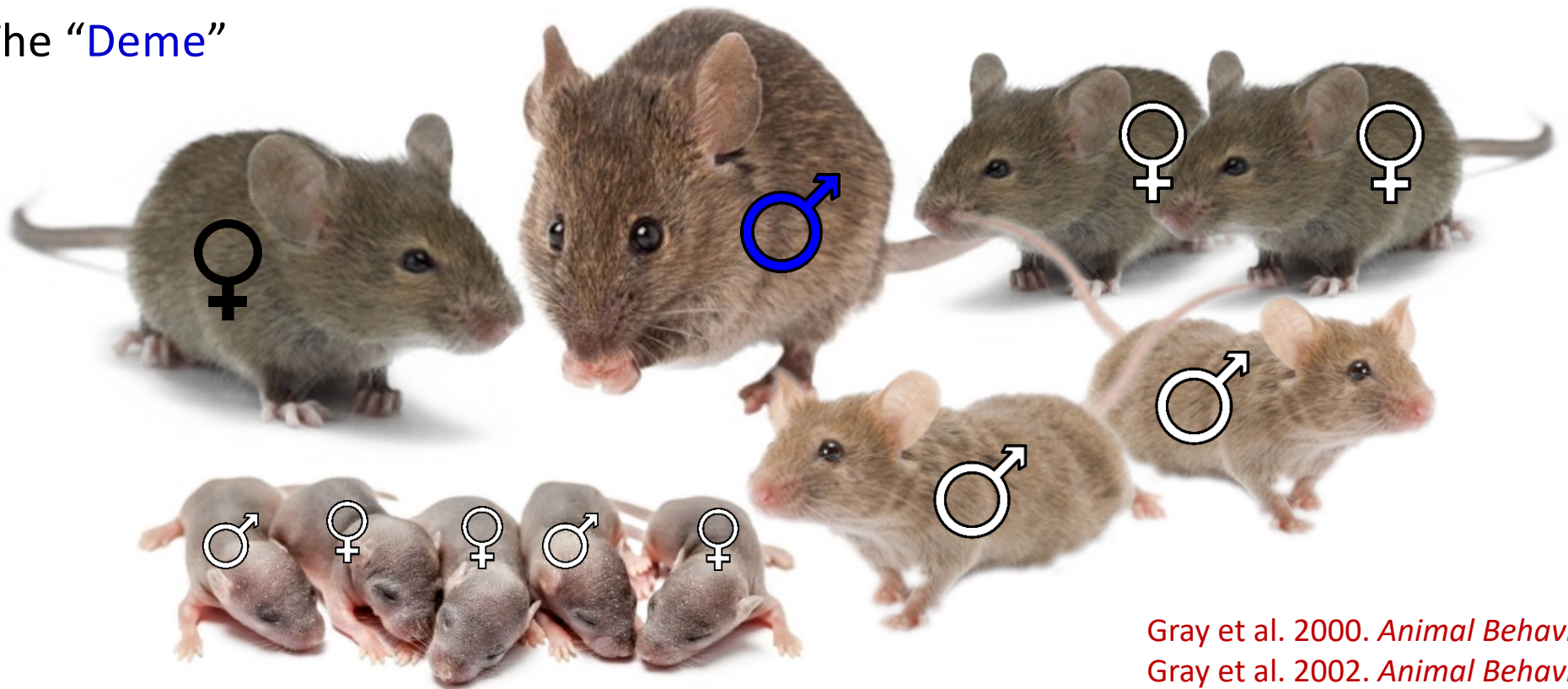


Social Structure of House Mice



The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Deme”

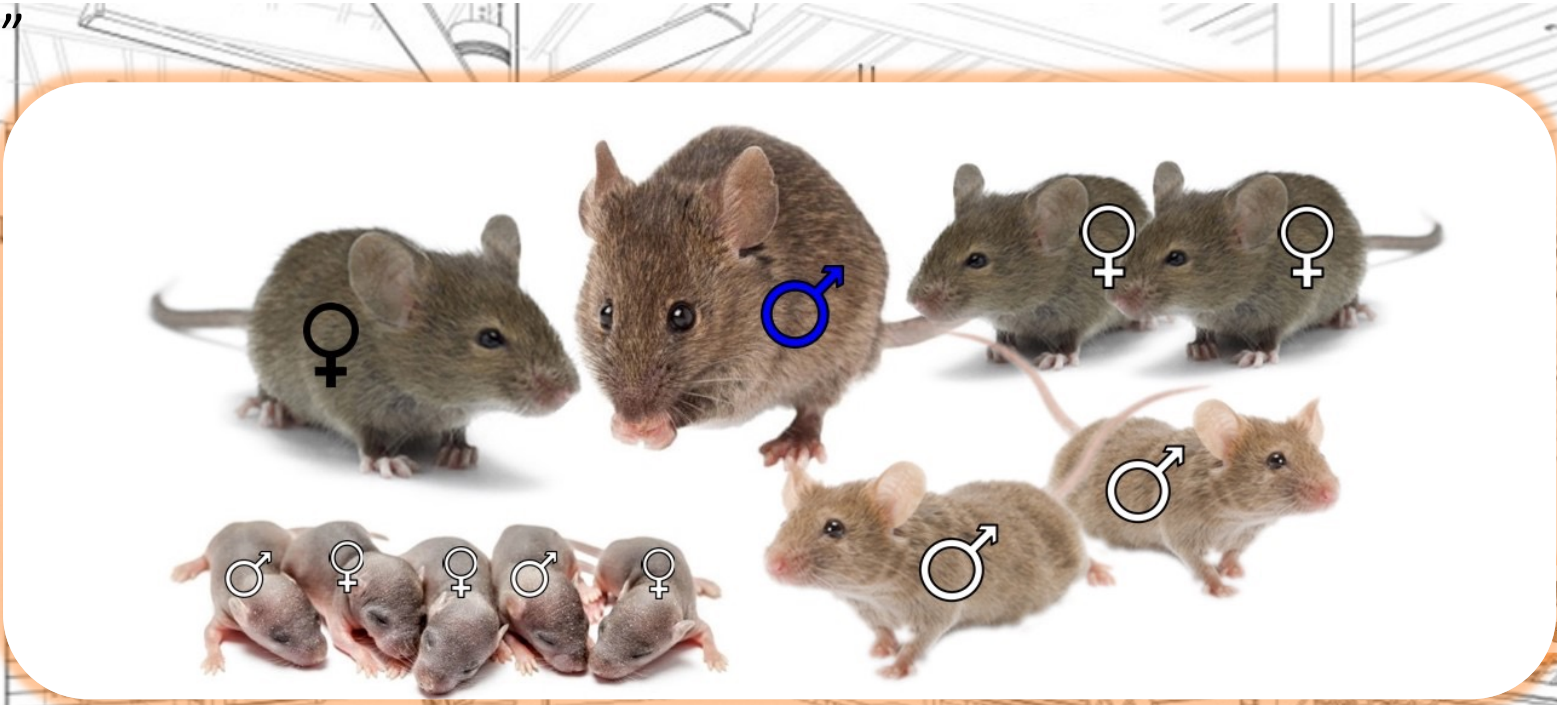


Gray et al. 2000. *Animal Behavior*
Gray et al. 2002. *Animal Behavior*



The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Nest”





The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Dynamic Nest”

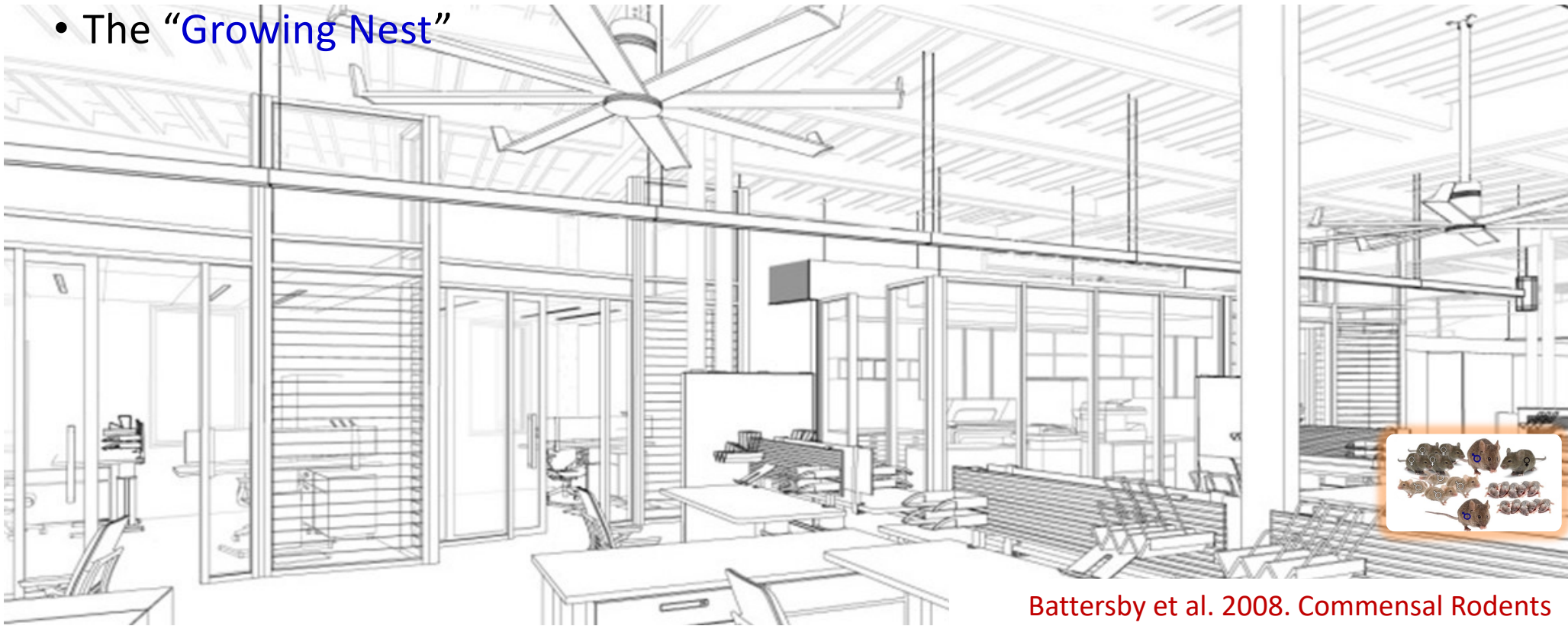


Lidicker et al. 1992.



The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Growing Nest”

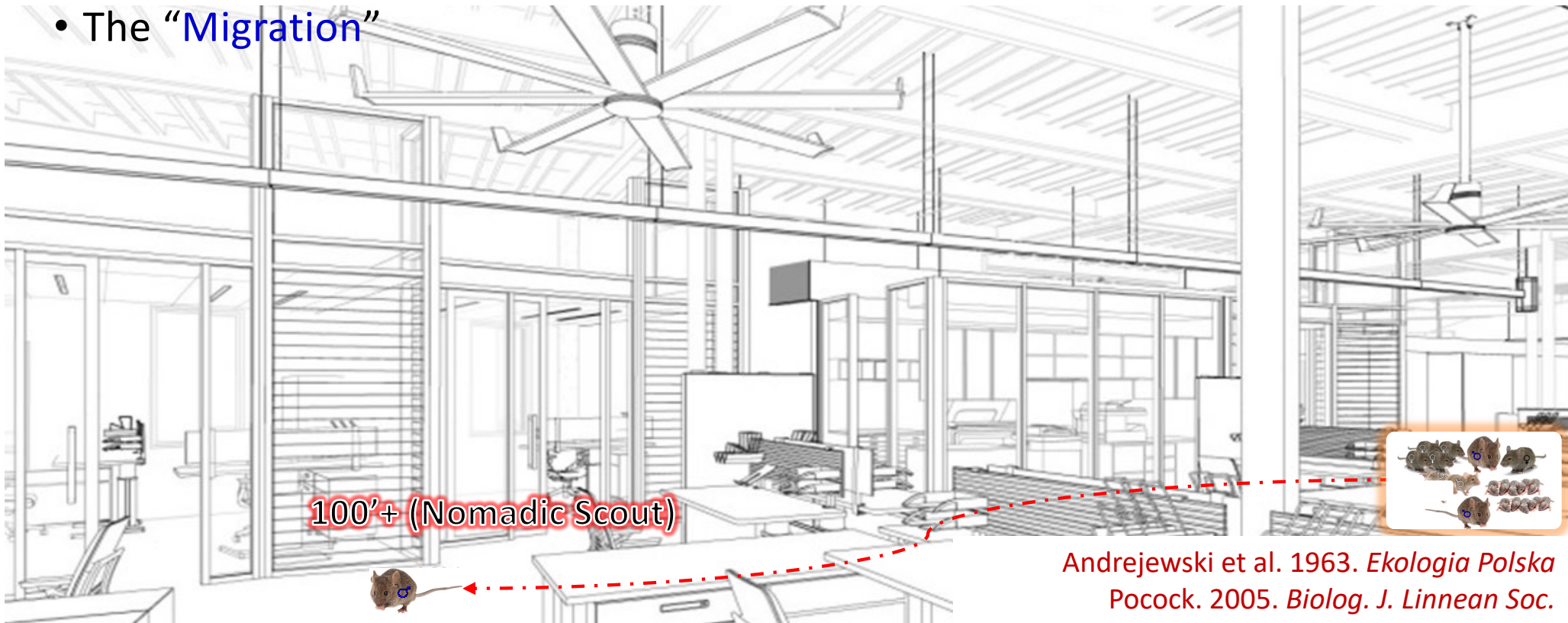


Battersby et al. 2008. Commensal Rodents



The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Migration”



100'+ (Nomadic Scout)



Andrejewski et al. 1963. *Ekologia Polska*
Pocock. 2005. *Biolog. J. Linnean Soc.*



The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Budding Nests”



DeLong. 1967. *Ecol.*
Pocock et al. 2005. *Biolog. J. Linnean Soc.*



The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Budding Nests”





The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Deme Set”





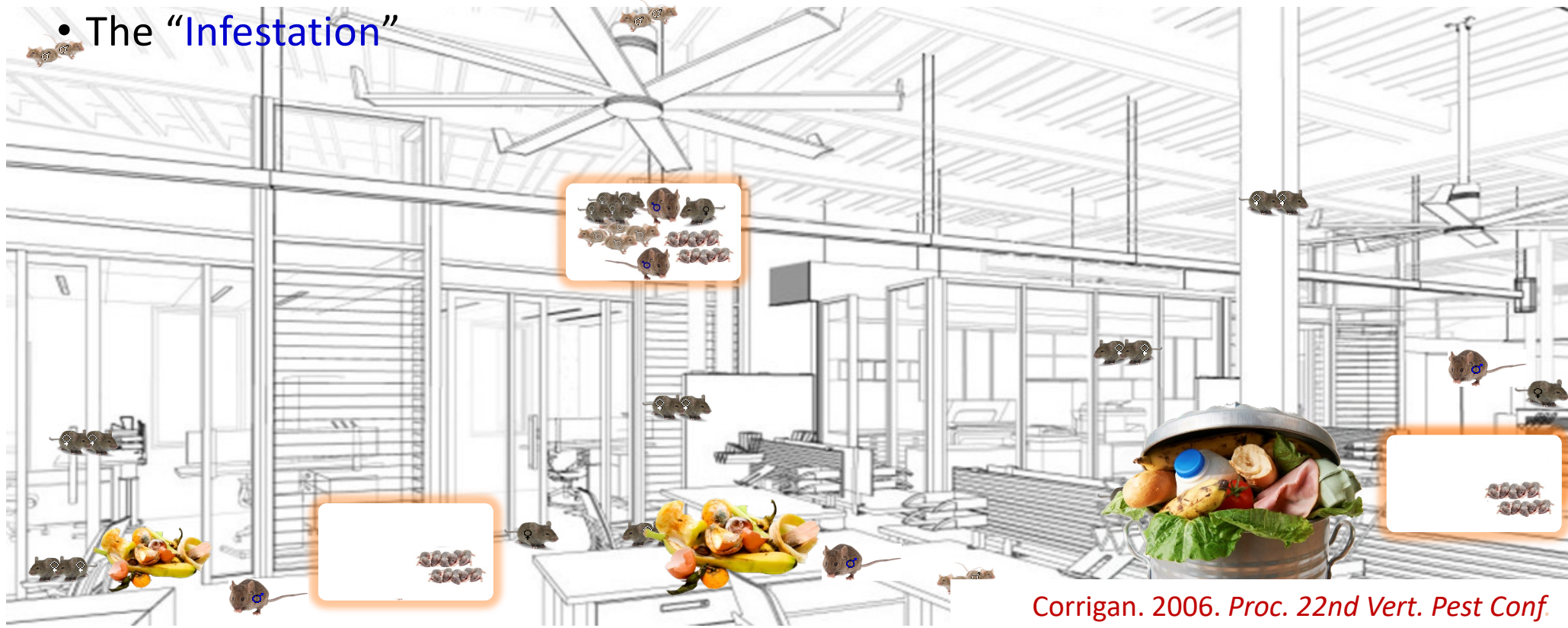
The Social Order of the House Mouse





The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Infestation”

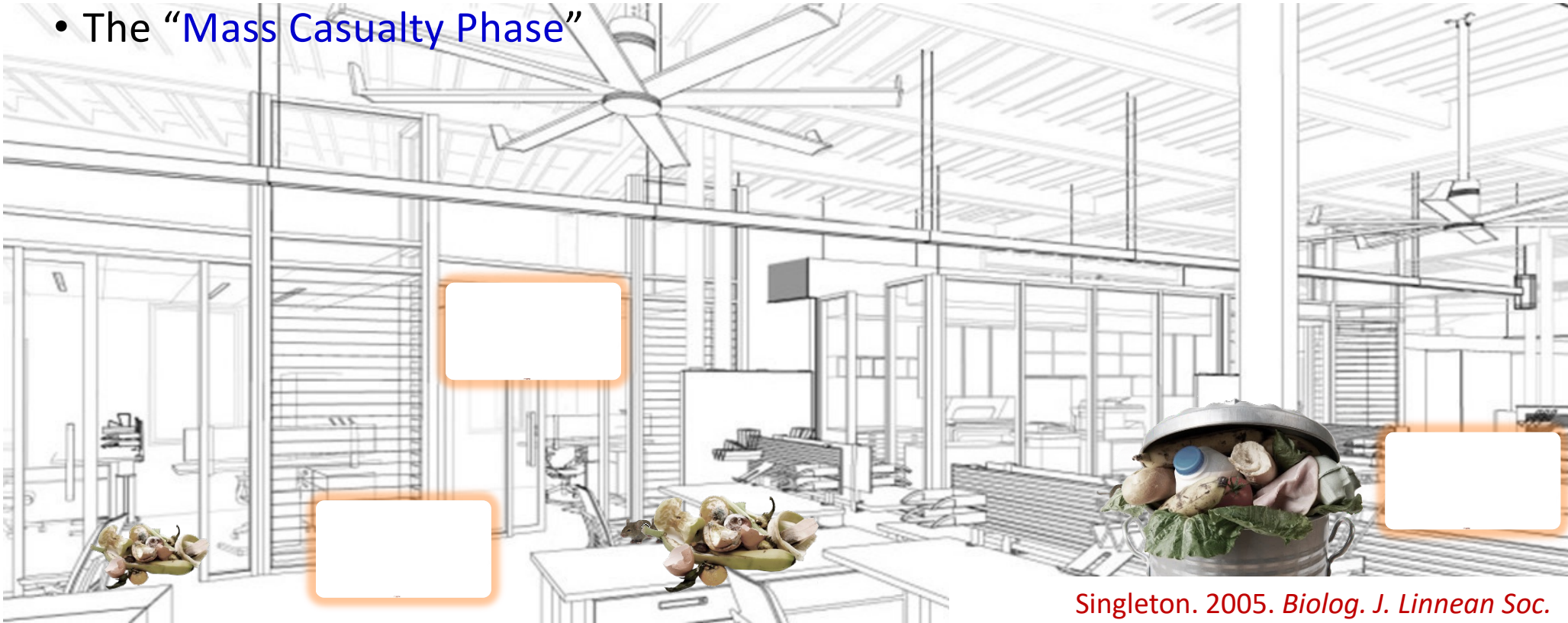


Corrigan. 2006. *Proc. 22nd Vert. Pest Conf.*



The Social Order of the House Mouse

- The “Mass Casualty Phase”



Singleton. 2005. *Biolog. J. Linnean Soc.*



Research 1: Monitoring & Treatment



Part 1 Objectives: Monitoring and Treatment

- Are residents' complaints a reliable indicator of infestations?
- Compare effectiveness of non-toxic food baits for detection
- Do mice visit specific "in-apartment" bait placement locations more often?
- What aspects of IPM have long term effects



Part 1 Materials and Methods

1. Building-wide Evaluation & Interviews (Trenton=246 and Linden=200)
 - a. Conduct resident questionnaire/interview
 - b. Install 2 monitors with blank baits (10.5 g) & chocolate (~1g dabs)
 - c. Return 1 week to determine presence / absence

Location Linden M&D Dill Date 5/3/19
 Page 2 of 8 Collectors SS + Sebastian

Week 4, 6, 7, 9 11				Dartop Consumed (Y / N)			Number Trap Kills			
210	NH	1-Stove	Questionnaire	-	9.2	Y	-	-		
210	↓	2-Sink	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
210		3-HVAC	Questionnaire	9, 2	0.5	Y	Y	Y		
215	NH	1-Stove	Stove F	-	-	-	-	-		
215	↓	2-Sink	OPPOSITE	-	-	-	-	-		
215		3-HVAC	From Pm	-	3.7	Y	Y	Y		
301	No	1-Stove	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
301	↓	2-Sink	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
301		3-HVAC	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
305	No	1-Stove	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
305	↓	2-Sink	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
305		3-HVAC	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
306	No	1-Stove	Questionnaire	-	10.0	-	Y	Y		
306	↓	2-Sink	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		
306		3-HVAC	Questionnaire	-	-	-	-	-		





Part 1 Materials and Methods

2. Treatment: Start Week 4 (Trenton=19 and Linden=49 apartments)
 - a. Install 3 bait stations with rodenticide in apartments with activity
 - b. Return to service weeks 4 times (weeks 6, 7, 9, 11); weighed and replaced





Part 1 Materials and Methods

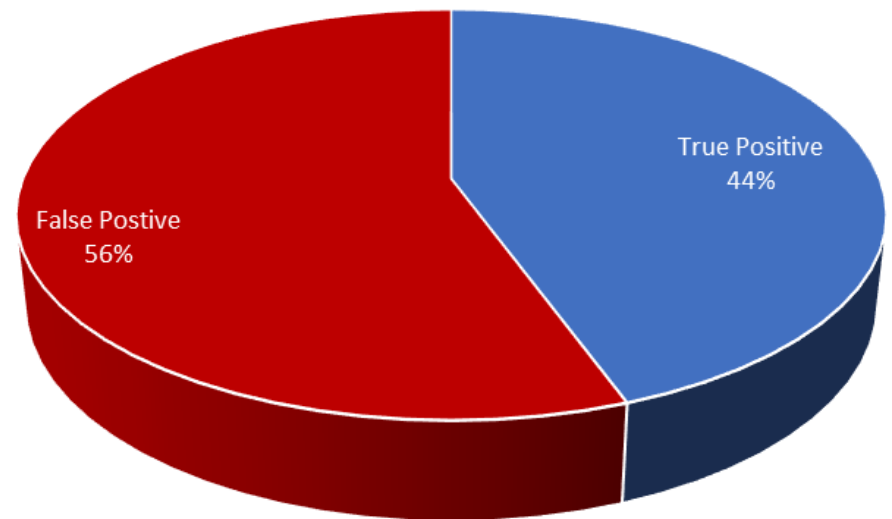
3. Install 2 monitors with blank baits on week 11
 - a. Return the following week to evaluate treatment effectiveness

4. Repeat building wide inspections on months 6 and 12
 - a. Follow same process and protocols for initial inspection
 - b. Determine if IPM treatments had a long term effect



Part 1 Results: Residents' Complaints

- Of 18 apartments with residents that thought they had mice,
 - 56% did not have mice
- Among 19 apartments with mice
 - Only 42% were aware of it

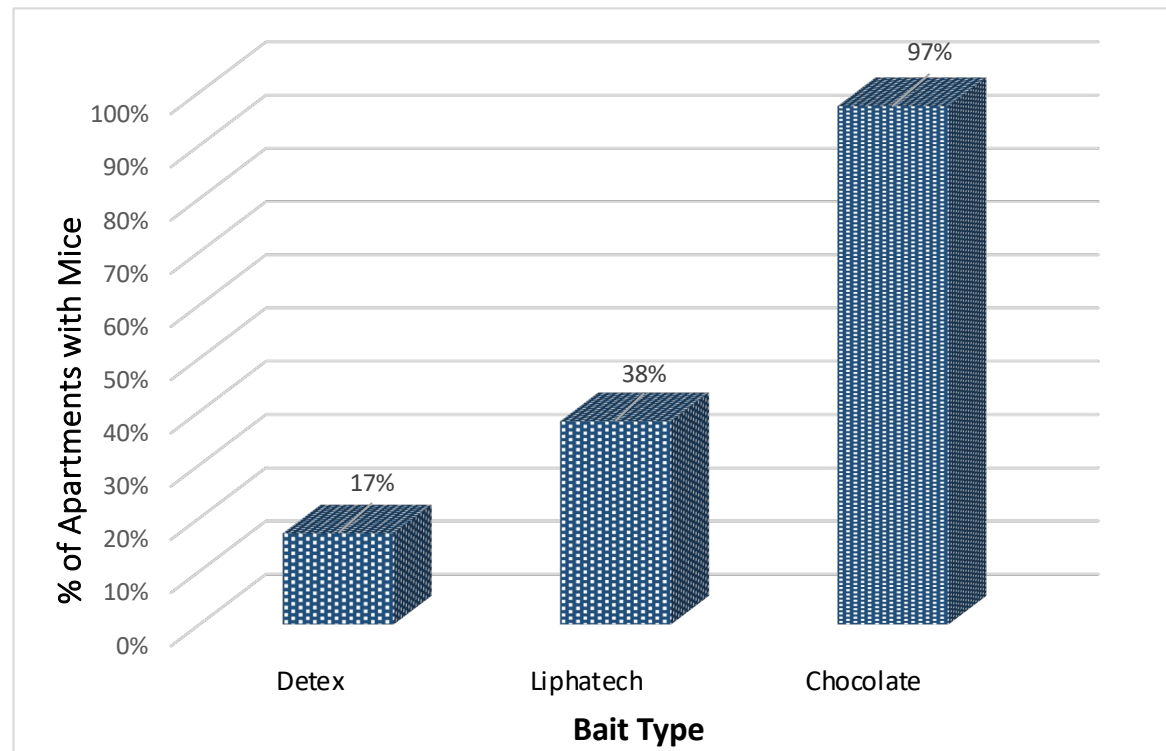


Proportion of observed activities confirmed or not by feeding activity



Part 1 Results: Effectiveness of Non-Toxic Baits

- Chocolate spread was fed upon more often than commercial baits
 - 69.5% of the feeding occurrences had only chocolate spread consumption
- Liphatech was consumed more than Detex soft bait

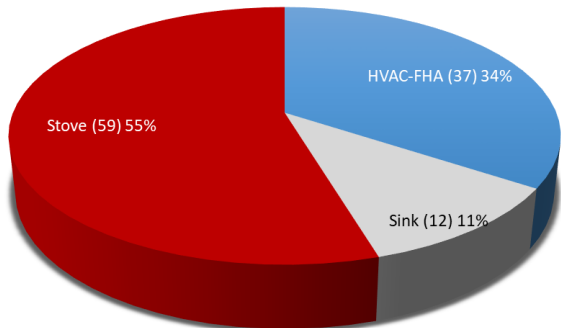




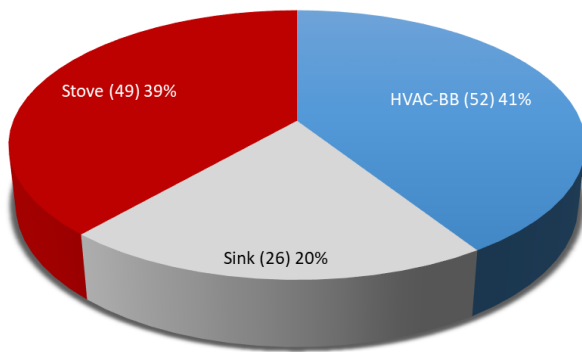
Part 1 Results: Location Effect

- Location preference was found among 3 locations
- However, this was different based on building construction
 - Trenton: Stove
 - Linden: HVAC & Stove

Proportion of Feeding by Location (Trenton)



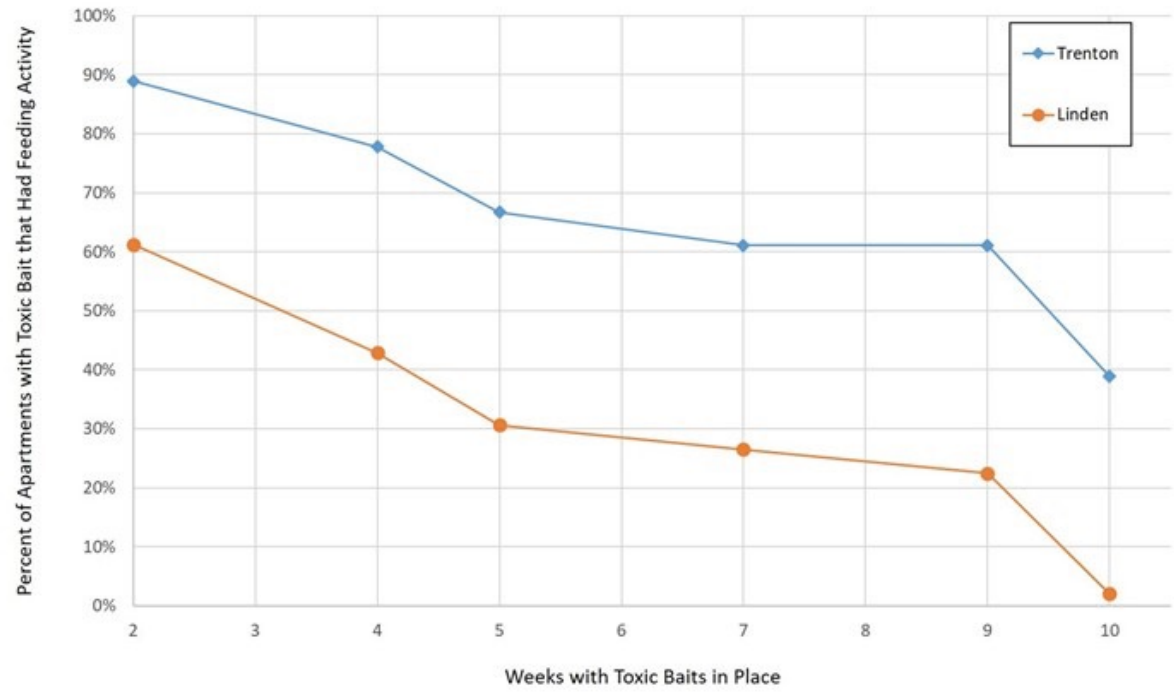
Proportion of Feeding by Location (Linden)





Part 1 Results: Impacts of IPM Treatments

- During the weeks the IPM was in place, there was a reduction in infestations





Part 1 Results: Effect of Sanitation/Clutter

- Individual apartment sanitation and clutter did not impact mouse activity during treatments
 - Separate or combined

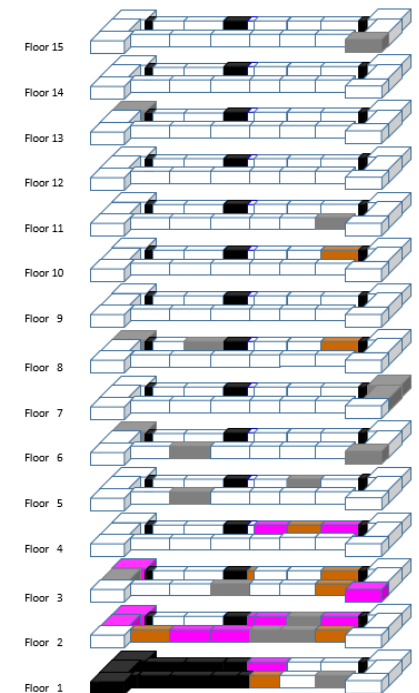




Part 1 Results: Impacts of IPM Treatments

- Lower 3 floors were more likely to have feeding activity
- Exclusion has a significant impact
 - Building wide aspect

NE IPM Rodent Study: Mouse Feeding Activity
Week 1 – Building Wide Survey: Trenton





Part 1 Conclusions

1. Are residents' complaints a reliable indicator of infestations?
 - Resident complaints are not a reliable way to identify activity
 - Building wide monitoring should be implemented
2. Comparative effectiveness of non-toxic food baits for detection
 - Chocolate Spread > Liphatech > Detex (soft)
 - Bait preference is very complex, based on pheromones, behavior and genetics
 - Bait preference is also not stable; alternatives should be investigated



Part 1 Conclusions

3. Mice may occur more often in certain locations in an apartment
 - Understanding building construction for within-envelop navigation is important
 - Based on runway routes

4. Building wide exclusion is important for long term management
 - Building wide aspects are more important than individual resident conditions
 - Outer envelope exclusion is of primary importance



Research 2: Spatial Movement



Part 2 Objectives: Spatial Movement

- Evaluate the risks associated with infested neighboring units between apartments within a building
 - Is there a correlation between neighboring units in their infestation status?





Part 2 Materials and Methods: Study Locations

- Utilize building-wide inspections of 4 buildings in 3 distinct cities in NJ
 - Inspections occurred at month 0 and 1 year later
 - Trenton (T_1), Linden (L_1), and 2 in Patterson (P_1 and P_2)



Part 2: Materials and Methods: **Monitoring**

- Installed mouse bait stations with 3 non-toxic baits in each apartment
 - Baits:
 - Detex® Soft Bait 9.5g
 - Liphatech® Rat and Mouse Attractant 10.4g
 - Hershey's Spreads Chocolate 3g in 3 separate dollops
- Returned 1 week after installation
 - Inspected & identified units with or without feeding





Part 2 Materials and Methods: Data Analysis

- Drawn out building layouts
- Organized data into matrix of pairs for each building
 - If 2 apartments are paired (shared wall, ceiling/floor) = 1
 - If 2 apartments do not share walls, ceiling/floors = 0
- Test independence of house mouse infestations and connected apartments
 - Conduct a permutation statistical test
 - Does having a “1” mean that it’s more likely that mouse activity will be present?
 - P-value < 0.05 = correlation between neighboring units in their infestation status



Part 2 Materials and Methods: Study Locations

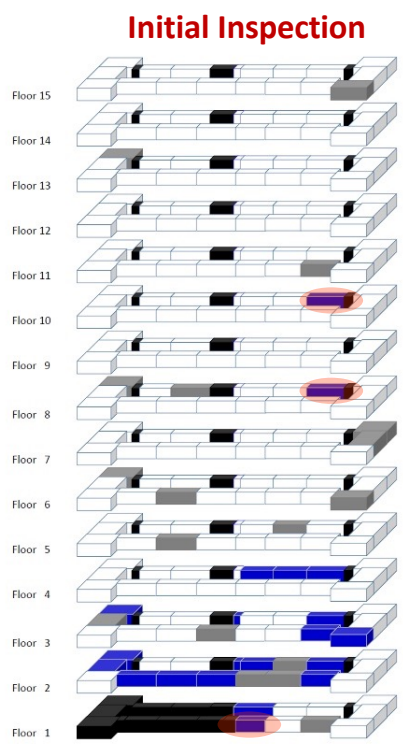
- Building attributes and pest management were similar
 - **Exception:** the proportion of apartments with shared walls
 - Will use the term “**isolated**” = no shared walls with apt on same floor

Building	% apartments with two shared walls	% apartments with one shared wall	% apartments with no shared walls
T ₁	65%	35%	0%
L ₁	60%	40%	0%
P ₁	36%	43%	21%
P ₂	33%	40%	27%

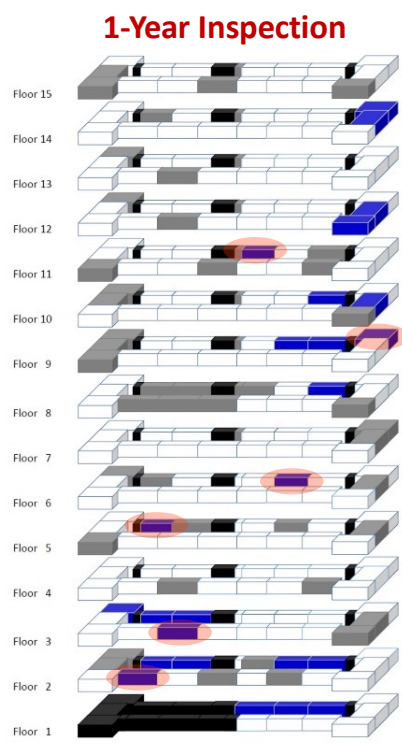


Part 2 Results: Observed Activity

- T₁ Building






3 of 21 (14%)
infestations were
in apartments
without infested
neighbors



6 of 25 (24%)
infestations were
in apartments
without infested
neighbors

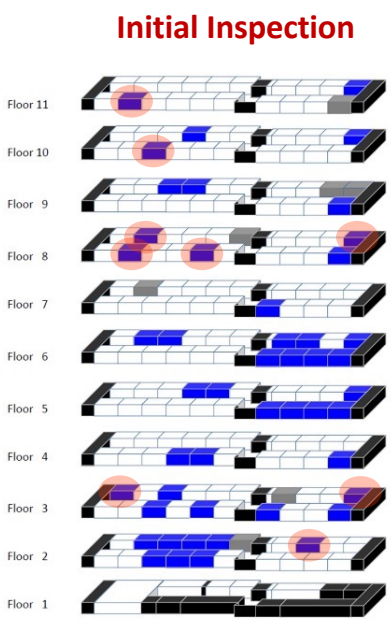
LEGEND

-  - Bait Feeding
-  - No Feeding
-  - Not Accessed

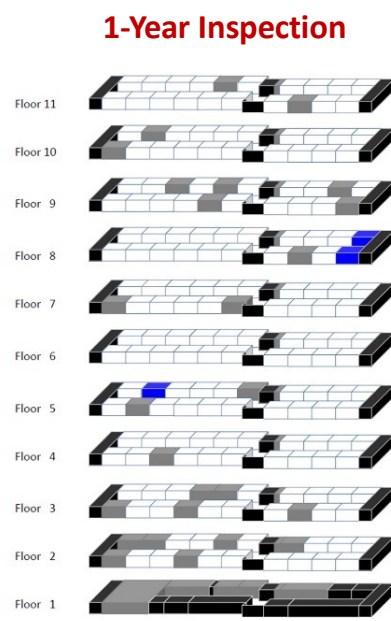


Part 2 Results: Observed Activity

- L₁ Building



9 of 48 (19%) infestations were in apartments without infested neighbors



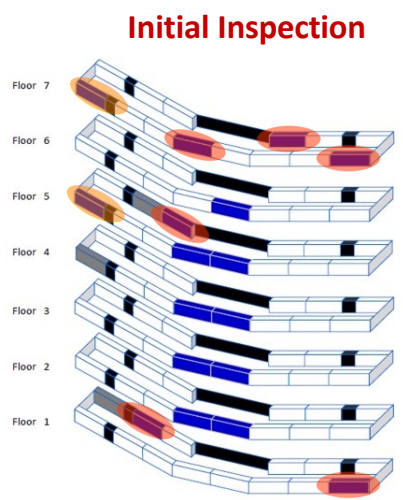
LEGEND

- Bait Feeding
- No Feeding
- Not Accessed



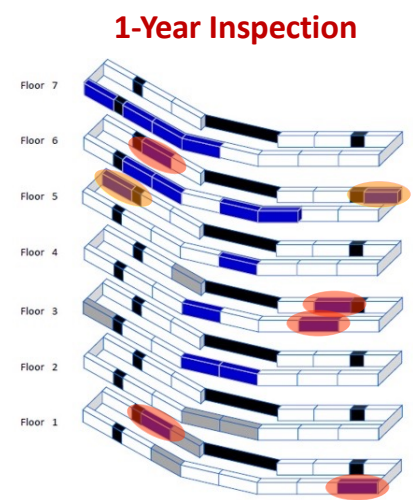
Part 2 Results: Observed Activity

- P₁ Building



8 of 17 (47%) infestations were in apartments without infested neighbors




However, **2 of those 8** were isolated



7 of 19 (37%) infestations were in apartments without infested neighbors

However, **2 of those 7** were isolated

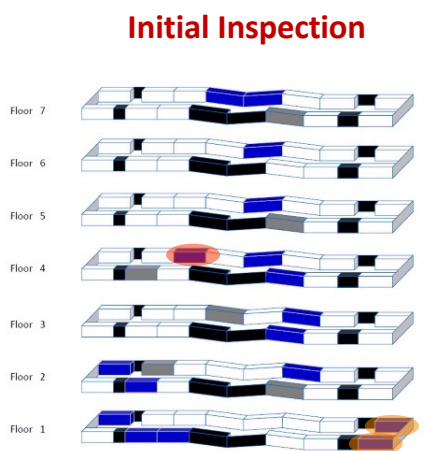
LEGEND

-  - Bait Feeding
-  - No Feeding
-  - Not Accessed



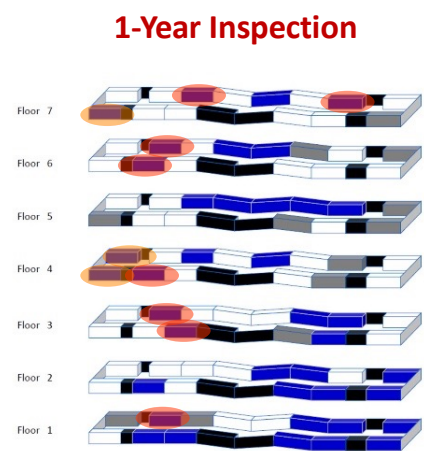
Part 2 Results: Observed Activity

- P₂ Building



3 of 17 (18%) infestations were in apartments without infested neighbors




However, **2 of those 3** were isolated



11 of 39 (28%) infestations were in apartments without infested neighbors

However, **3 of those 7** were isolated

LEGEND

-  - Bait Feeding
-  - No Feeding
-  - Not Accessed



Part 2 Results: Data Analysis

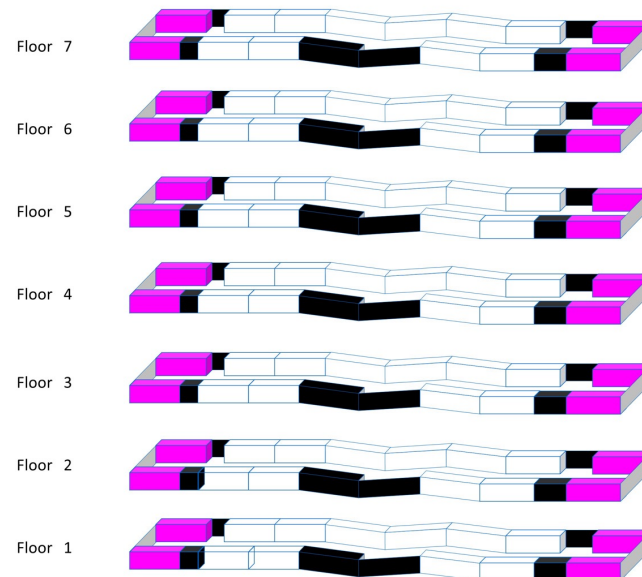
- Significant correlation was found between neighboring units in their infestation status in 3 of the 4 buildings
 - * = L₁ could not be tested at the 1 year mark due to very few infestations
 - P₂ did not show significant correlation

Building	P-value	
	Initial visit	Second visit
T ₁	0.00003	0.00003
L ₁	0.00091	*
P ₁	0.00053	0.03426
P ₂	0.07014	0.09091



Part 2 Results: Data Analysis

- P_2 had the highest proportion of apartments that were isolated (27%)
 - Fewest opportunities for neighbors' infestation status to influence each other





Part 2 Conclusions

1. Apartments infestation status is correlated to neighboring units' status
 - This clustered distribution has implications for pest control operations
2. House mouse management should utilize this information during treatment
 - Building wide inspections can be used to identify infestations (Sked 2021)
 - **During treatments, monitoring neighboring units can help to ensure elimination**
3. Building construction and layout should be considered for monitoring activities
 - Correlation is lessened in buildings with higher proportions of isolated apartments

A black and white photograph of several mice on a dark, textured surface. The mice are of various sizes and are looking in different directions. The central mouse is in sharp focus, while the others are blurred in the background.

Summary: Implications



Summary

1. Building wide inspections by professionals are necessary to identify issues
 - a) Reliance on patients, guests, residents alone may not prove reliable

2. Ongoing perimeter level facilities maintenance is key for prevention
 - a) Involve engineering in root cause analysis – construction is important to consider

3. Once sources are identified, treat and monitor neighboring areas
 - a) Use a variety of bait sources to identify what is preferred by resident population



References

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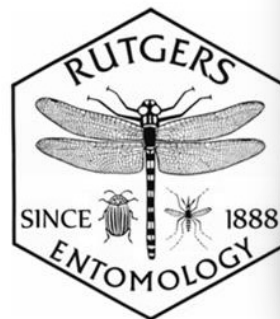
Thank you!

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USDA Housing and Urban Development



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Questions?

