

The Drain Fly



By *Guilaine Pageau, M. Env.*

You've probably already guessed where these flies get their name. Indeed, they have a habit of reproducing in drains (floor, sink, etc.). More specifically, they favor the decomposing organic matter (gelatinous material) that accumulates on the sides of drains and provides an ideal medium for ensuring their survival.

Drain flies are a nuisance in homes, commercial buildings, and sewage treatment plants. They can also be found around compost bins and dirty garbage cans. Although drain flies don't bite, they are bothersome because they tend to appear in large groups.

How to Identify a Drain Fly

Drain flies are 2 to 3 mm long, and are grey to dark grey in color. They are easily identifiable by the large quantity of hairs covering their body and wings. When folded back, their wings resemble a peaked rooftop, and are disproportionately large for their bodies, which makes them look like small butterflies. This is why they are also known as Moth Flies.

Compared to other flies, drain flies are weak fliers. They tend to get around by small jumps or by gliding just a few feet. During the day they can be found resting on surfaces. They are mostly active during the night.

The life cycle from egg to adult takes 1 to 3 weeks, depending on the environment. During the winter months, the cycle is longer.

Drain flies go through complete metamorphosis, meaning that they pass from egg to larva, pupa, and finally adult. Larvae are aquatic or semi-aquatic, and feed on microorganisms found in decomposing organic matter such as bacteria, fungus, and algae.

There are several different species of drain fly, but they are all quite similar and share the same behavior.

The Best Way to Get Rid of Drain Flies? A Thorough Cleaning!

Simply disinfecting the breeding sites will only provide short-term control. For lasting results, you need to tackle the problem at its source by getting rid of the organic matter that provides a protective film for the immature flies. Disinfectants will not dissolve this barrier. To eliminate breeding media, you will need to scrape or brush your drains.

If the breeding site is not in a drain, you must eliminate the decomposing organic matter and, if necessary, repair the structure that enabled the flies to develop.

Foam-based enzyme-and-bacteria drain cleaners may be useful in removing immature flies and breeding media. Insecticides are only used on a very limited basis to eliminate adult flies. ●

New Requirements for Rodenticide Use

By *François Casault, Technical Associate*

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has announced its decision to reevaluate rodenticides. As of January 2008, rodenticide labeling must contain stricter instructions for use. Risk-mitigation measures to better protect workers, children, pets, and the environment are now mandatory.

Rodenticides must be kept out of reach of children, pets, and farm animals, or placed in tamper-resistant bait stations. These stations must have the following characteristics:

- Constructed of high-strength material (e.g., metal or injection-molded plastic) and resistant to destruction by children and non-target animals
- Entrance designed so that children and non-target animals cannot reach the bait
- Internal structure that prevents bait from being shaken loose

- Access panel that fastens securely and locks (e.g., with a metal screw or padlock)
- Fastens securely to a surface (e.g., nailed down)
- Clearly labeled "DANGER POISON"

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Bait Station

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Maheu&Maheu's 75th Anniversary Celebrations

By Michel Maheu, General Manager

Maheu&Maheu pest management was busy on all fronts in 2008. We unveiled our company history at the annual company banquet held at the Impérial Theater in Québec City last April 26th. Rather than present a simple timeline, we designed the event to highlight the company's steady growth since our founding.

It was also an opportunity to showcase the excellent work provided by our various offices and employees. To the immense pride of our employees and suppliers, we celebrated our anniversary celebrations in style. Also in attendance were a number of our clients, suppliers, and the Maheu family.

Over the Labor Day weekend, our employees and their families celebrated this major milestone at Versant du Massif, a charming resort in the Charlevoix region. Activities included whale watching, hiking, a golf tournament, a junior Olympics, a colossal lamb roast, a concert by the band Zuruba, and a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the starriest sky of the summer.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our suppliers whose financial support helped us make the festivities a reality. We showcase the main partners of our 75th anniversary celebrations elsewhere in this issue. ●



Cocktail reception



Kids parade with Zuruba band



André Maheu welcomes our guests



Overall view of Versant du Massif

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Furthermore, rodenticides must not be placed where they may contaminate food or surfaces that come into contact with food. When used outdoors, rodenticides for rats and mice should only be used **along exterior building walls**. Rodenticides containing brodifacoum or bromethalin are now **prohibited for outdoor use**. It is also no longer possible to open pre-measured products sold in packets.

Chemical resistant gloves must be worn when handling rodenticides and disposing of rodent carcasses, unused bait stations, and empty containers. Pants, a long sleeved shirt, socks, and shoes must also be worn when handling rodenticides.

Rodenticides are only permitted in restaurants, food courts, and food manufacturing, processing, and storage facilities when they are not in operation. If rodenticides are used, all food, packaging material, and utensils must be stored or covered before adding bait to the bait stations. All bait stations and rodent carcasses must be removed before the facilities may be reopened (including storage and restaurant areas).

These new, stricter requirements are designed to limit the potential risks of unintentional poisonings. ●



Bernard Thomas Named Montreal Regional Director

Last May, Maheu&Maheu announced the acquisition of the pest management division of Veolia Environmental Services, a special event as it added Mysto to the Maheu family right in the midst of our 75th anniversary celebrations.

Bernard Thomas, director of operations for this division of Veolia, has joined Maheu&Maheu as assistant regional director. After lending an indispensable hand to ensure a smooth transition for our clientele, he was given a new mission in December 2008: managing the expanded team at our Montreal regional office.

With more than 30 years of pest management experience under his belt, Bernard possesses all the necessary skills for his position, and we are positive that he will meet this new challenge with success.

Good luck, Bernard! ● **MM**



Appointment: Sébastien Tremblay

During his 10 years with Maheu&Maheu, Sébastien has risen quickly through the ranks. Hailing from Lac Simon in the Outaouais region, he began his career as a technician with the Montreal regional office in 1998. Five years later, he took over for Martin St-Pierre as the regional director of our Montreal office.

Passionate about all things pest management, Sébastien has shown a remarkable aptitude for business development over the past few years. Therefore, it seemed only fitting to offer him a position with this team. We are pleased to announce his appointment as corporate development associate effective March 2008.

We wish Sébastien every success in his new position! ● **MM**

Here is one of our own: Mike Hendrickson



Micheal (pronounced Mik-el) began his career at Maheu&Maheu in 2001 as a technician for the Ontario regional office. He had more than fifteen years of experience in the field upon arrival. He was appointed regional director in 2003 and he held that position since.

Bearing the burden of a large territory, Mike spends a lot of time on the road, which fortunately, he enjoys. "I am a better driver than passenger. I am a lousy passenger!" he often says.

Mike has spent several years volunteering as a coach of his daughter's ringette teams and after eight years, continues to coach his son's minor hockey team. He has coached their teams to league championships several times. Passionate about hockey, Mike keeps in shape playing with two different groups of friends. He claims that his daughter curiously is faster than him on skates, especially backwards! Mike claims good coaching. By the way, Mike is not a supporter of the Red Wings despite the proximity of his residence with Detroit... ● **MM**

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