

Claims

1. A bed bug detection device (10), which is not based on physical capture of bed bugs but rather by passively observing tell tale signs which indicate their presence, comprising:
 - a. a refuge (16) which elicits a taxis response from bed bugs; and
 - b. a non-trapping indicator surface (18) comprising a skirt (18b) which surrounds and extends out from the refuge, said device being absent of trapping adhesives.
2. A bed bug detection device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the indicator surface is a substantially flat sheet of material which surrounds the entire area of the refuge.
3. A bed bug detection device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the refuge is positioned centrally on the sheet.
4. A bed bug detection device as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the refuge comprises crevices, tunnels or the like (26) which create a microenvironment in which the bed bugs may live during the day.
5. A bed bug detection device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the refuge comprises dark enclosed sites (28).
6. A bed bug detection device as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the refuge comprises a material to which the bed bugs have a sensory and/ or chemical affinity such as wood, fabric, or paper.
7. A bed bug detection device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the refuge comprises Manila paper.
8. A bed bug detection device as claimed in claim 6 or 7 wherein the refuge comprises corrugated paper.

9. A bed bug detection device as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the refuge may be coated or filled with a marker (30) which may be deposited on the indicator surface.
10. A bed bug detection device as claimed in claim 9 wherein the marker can be detected by UV radiation.
11. A bed bug detection device as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the device comprises an underside (32) which comprises an adhesive allowing the device to be attached to a surface.
12. A bed bug detection device as claimed in any of the preceding claims further comprising one or more protective elements (12, 22).
13. A bed bug detection device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the protective elements comprise a substantially rigid material which covers the refuge.
14. A bed bug device as claimed in claim 13 which takes the form of a pad comprising the refuge and non-trapping indicator surface sandwiched between upper and lower protective elements.
15. A passive method of detecting the presence of bed bugs without their capture comprising using a device which does not use trapping adhesives and:
 - a) elicits a taxis response, attracting the bedbugs to a location; and
 - b) allows their presence to be identified by the presence of indicators in the form of faecal matter or cast skins, which the bed bugs deposit on a non-trapping indicator surface comprising a skirt (18b) which surrounds and extends out from the refuge.