

POLE HOLDER COVER

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention generally relates to covers for pole holders, and more particularly to a cover that prevents accumulation of water in the pole holder so as to inhibit breeding by insects.

Background of the Invention

[0002] It is common for residents of multi-storey dwellings to hang wet apparels on poles that are located on external walls of such dwellings. These poles are disposed at an angle in rows of pole holders. FIG 1 illustrates the side view of one such pole holder **2** mounted on a wall **3**. The wet apparels **4** are hung on a pole **6**, for example a bamboo pole, and the pole **6** is inserted into the pole holder **2**. When the pole holder **2** is not in use, it accumulates rainwater and becomes a breeding ground for insects such as the Aedes mosquitoes. The Aedes mosquito is a carrier of the dengue disease and poses a huge health concern to the public. Therefore, it is important to eradicate areas that may potentially become a breeding ground for the mosquitoes.

[0003] Generally, a cover **10** is attached to the pole holder **2** to prevent the accumulation of rainwater in the pole holder **2**. Typically, the cover **10** is cup-shaped, and has a rubber attachment **11** that secures it to the pole holder **2**. When the pole holder is not in use, the resident has to cover the pole holder **2** with the cover **10** as shown in FIG 2 to prevent rainwater and mosquitoes from entering the pole holder **2**. Although the cover **10** prevents rainwater and mosquitoes from entering the pole holder **2**, it has certain drawbacks. For example, the rubber attachment **11** of the cover **10** is prone to wear and tear and thus breaks easily. As a result, the cover **10** is usually lost and the pole holder **2** remains uncovered for a certain period of time. Furthermore, the cover **10** is usually made of plastic that cracks and crumbles easily under long exposure to sunlight. In addition, some residents may forget to cover the pole holder **2** when it is not in use, thereby allowing rainwater to enter the pole holder **2**. Another disadvantage of the cover **10** is that it does not prevent rainwater from entering the pole holder **2** when the pole **6** is inserted in the pole holder **2**.

[0004] Therefore, there is an imperative need to have a pole holder cover that overcomes the above-discussed problems and effectively prevents the pole holder from becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Other advantages of this invention will be apparent with reference to the detailed description.

Summary of the Invention

[0005] The present invention provides a pole holder cover that prevents fluid, debris or insects from entering a pole holder so that the pole holder does not become a breeding ground for insects, especially mosquitoes.

[0006] Accordingly, in one aspect, the present invention provides a pole holder cover that supports a pole, the cover comprising: a body having a back opening and a front opening, wherein the back opening is configured to be fitted to the pole holder, wherein the front opening is configured to receive the pole when the pole is inserted into the pole holder; at least one lid for covering the front opening; and a hinge element for coupling the lid to the front opening, wherein the at least one lid is rotatable about the hinge element, wherein when the pole is inserted into the pole holder, the pole enters the front opening and pushes the at least one lid, causing the at least one lid to swing away from the front opening, and when the pole is removed from the pole holder, the at least one lid swings towards the front opening to cover the front opening.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0007] A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be more fully described, with reference to the drawings of which:

[0008] FIG 1 is an illustrative diagram showing a prior art cover attached to a pole holder.

[0009] FIG 2 is an illustrative diagram showing the use of the prior art cover to cover the pole holder.

[0010] FIG 3 is a perspective view of the pole holder cover in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0011] FIG 4 is a front view of the pole holder cover in FIG 3.

[0012] FIG 5 is a cross-sectional side view of the pole holder cover in FIG 3 looking from the line A-A.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0013] The present invention may be understood more readily by reference to the following detailed description of certain embodiments of the invention.

[0014] The present invention provides a pole holder cover that inhibits the breeding of insects in a pole holder. In particular, the pole holder cover is configured to prevent the accumulation of water in the pole holder so that the pole holder does not become a breeding ground for insects. One type of insects is the AEDES mosquito that carries the dengue disease and poses a health problem to the public.

[0015] FIGS 2, 3 and 4 illustrate the perspective view, the front view and cross-sectional side view of the pole holder cover 20 respectively. The pole holder cover 20 comprises a body 22 having a front section 30, a center section 40 and a back section 50. The front section 30 has an opening 31 for receiving a pole 6. A lid 32 is coupled to the front section 30 and acts as a cover for the opening 31. In particular, the lid 32 is coupled to a hinge element 33 on the front section 30, wherein the lid 32 can be rotated about the hinge element 33. The hinge element 33 may comprise a spring 34 that is biased to support the lid 32 in a closed configuration. In the closed configuration, the lid 32 covers the opening 31 to prevent debris, fluid or insects from entering the opening 31. Furthermore, the top of the opening 31 comprises a protrusion 36 to limit the amount of rainwater entering the opening 31.

[0016] A slit 41 is disposed at the bottom of the center section 40 for draining out any fluid that may enter the pole holder cover 20. Furthermore, a barrier 42 is disposed adjacent to the slit 41 to facilitate the slit 41 in draining out water. The barrier 42 also prevents water from flowing to the back section 50.

[0017] The back section 50 comprises an aperture 51 that allows a pole holder 2 to be inserted into the back section 50. The inner circumference of the back section 50 can be configured according to the dimensions of the pole holder 2 so that the back section 50 can be securely fitted on the pole holder 2. Furthermore, a plurality of ribs 52 can be disposed at the inner circumference of the back section 50 to provide the back section 50 with additional tension or automatic dimensional adjustment when fitted on the pole holder 2.

[0018] When a pole 6 is inserted into the pole holder 2, it first enters the pole holder cover 20 through the opening 31. As the pole 6 enters the opening 31, it pushes the lid 32, thereby causing the lid 32 to swing towards the top of the front section 30. The spring 34 is now compressed. The pole holder cover 20 now assumes an open configuration. As discussed above, the top of the opening 31 comprises a protrusion 36 to limit the amount of rainwater entering the opening 31. In addition, the bottom length of the body 22 is predetermined to ensure that the bottom of the body 22 is not subjected to the weight of the pole 6 when the pole 6 is inserted into the pole holder 2. Therefore, the pole holder cover 20 allows the entire weight of the pole 6 to be supported by the pole holder 2. As mentioned above, the slit 41 and barrier 42 at the center portion 40 of the pole holder cover 20 also prevent water from entering the pole holder 2 by draining water out of the pole holder cover 20. When the pole 6 is removed from the pole holder 2, the spring becomes uncompressed and swings the lid 32 towards the opening 31 to cover the opening 31. The pole holder cover 20 is now in a closed configuration and prevents any water or insects from entering the pole holder 2.

[0019] As discussed above, one disadvantage of the prior art cover 10 is the rubber attachment feature 11 that attaches it to the pole holder 2. The rubber attachment 11 is prone to wear and tear, thus causing it to break easily. As a result, the cover 10 is usually lost and the pole holder 2 loses the means to prevent the ingress of rainwater and insects. The pole holder cover 20 of the present invention overcomes this problem by not having any rubber attachment. Instead, the pole holder cover 20 is securely mounted onto the pole holder 2 during the whole duration of use.

[0020] Furthermore, the pole holder cover 20 can be made from materials that have a mixture of the ultraviolet (UV) stabilizers to protect the pole holder cover from UV rays. Hence, the pole holder cover 20 would not crack or crumble easily under long exposure to sunlight. Alternatively, the pole holder cover 20 can be made from the same materials as the pole holders 2, which are often metal or metal alloys.

[0021] Another advantage of the pole holder cover 20 is that the lid 32 automatically closes the pole holder cover 20 when the pole 6 is removed from the pole holder 2. The lid 32 prevents entry of rainwater and insects so that the pole holder 2 does not become an insect breeding area.

[0022] Referring again to Figure 5, a mesh material 43 may be disposed over the slit 41 for preventing smaller insects from entering into the interior of the cover and breeding therein. At the same time, fluids that flow through the opening 31 of the cover may be drained through the mesh material 43 and the slit 41.

[0023] While the present invention has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it will be understood that the embodiments are illustrative and that the invention scope is not so limited. Alternative embodiments of the present invention will become apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art to which the present invention pertains. Such alternate embodiments are considered to be encompassed within the spirit and scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the scope of the present invention is described by the appended claims and is supported by the foregoing description.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cover for a pole holder that supports a pole, the cover comprising:
 - a body having a back opening and a front opening, wherein the back opening is configured to be fitted to the pole holder, wherein the front opening is configured to receive the pole when the pole is inserted into the pole holder;
 - at least one lid for covering the front opening; and
 - a hinge element for coupling the lid to the front opening, wherein the at least one lid is rotatable about to the hinge element,wherein when the pole is inserted into the pole holder, the pole enters the front opening and pushes the at least one lid, causing the at least one lid to swing away from the front opening, and when the pole is removed from the pole holder, the at least one lid swings towards the front opening to cover the front opening.
2. The cover of claim 1 further comprising a slit centrally disposed at the bottom of the body for draining out any water that enters from the front opening.
3. The slit of claim 2 wherein a mesh material may be disposed over said slit for preventing insects from entering the interior of the body.
4. The cover of claim 2 further comprising a barrier disposed adjacent to the slit, wherein the barrier prevents water entering the front opening from flowing to the pole holder.
5. The cover of claim 1, wherein the hinge element comprises a spring configured to move the at least one lid to cover the front opening when the pole is removed from the pole holder.
6. The cover of claim 1, wherein the top of the front opening has a protrusion to limit the amount of rainwater entering the front opening.

7. The cover of claim 1, wherein the back opening comprises a plurality of ribs that provide the back opening with automatic dimensional adjustment when fitted on the pole holder.