

L'IMPORTANZA DEL MONITORAGGIO ENTOMOLOGICO NELLA CONSERVAZIONE PREVENTIVA E PROGRAMMATA DI BENI CULTURALI

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Abstract

The progressive degradation of many cultural heritage items can be caused by biotic agents, including arthropods, especially insects. The risk of attack by pests depends on both the intrinsic and the extrinsic characteristics of the item (type of material, treatment or preparation of the object, dimensions, geographical area, climate, location, type of architectural structure, local microclimate). The standard EN 16790:2016 “Conservation of Cultural Heritage - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for protection of cultural heritage” is a valid guide for the application of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) in institutions which hold items pertaining to cultural heritage in order to protect them from pest attacks.

This work reports on the objectives, methods and results of ongoing research, started three years ago in two cities in northern Italy, in accordance with the directives of the aforementioned standard. On the premises of some private institutions holding various kinds of cultural assets (old books and documents, paintings, wooden artefacts, tapestries, zoological collections), a monitoring activity using glue traps and pheromone traps has been undertaken aimed at carrying out a census of the arthropods and insects present and at least to some extent potentially harmful. The results obtained so far are significant, in particular with regard to *Zygentoma*, Coleoptera Anobiidae and Lepidoptera *Tineidae*. Of interest was the discovery of a species of Psocodea new to science.

Key words: libraries, archives, museums, insect pests, adhesive traps, pheromone traps.