

Erratum

The corrections for the paper: Six Forensic Entomology Cases: Description and Commentary. J Forensic Sci 1998;43(4):797–805 was inadvertently left out at page proof stage. Please note the following corrections:

1. p. 797: in the header, Mark Benecke holds a Ph.D. (Hon.).
2. p. 803: Fig. 11 has to be Fig. 10.
3. p. 803: the figure caption for Fig. 11 belongs to Fig. 10. The figure caption for Fig. 10 belongs to the actual Fig. 11. Please refer to the original (new) Fig. 10 below.



Additionally, the following text explains the erroneously printed Fig. 10.

“Wasps” in a Sterile Room

On the 21 August 1996 a number of wasps were reported on the ceiling of a laboratory in which DNA is extracted. On inspection, some ten adult hover flies were found sitting near the openings of a ventilation shaft (see Fig. 10 in (1)). A few days previously, the whole ventilation system in the building had been renewed. Furthermore, laboratory personnel had noticed unpleasant smells every time a decayed corpse was delivered to a nearby autopsy room located on the same floor. This room is connected to the sterile room by the same (horizontal) ventilation shaft. For that reason, laboratory staff supposed that the “wasps” were drone-flies, *Eristalis tenax*, which is the only hover fly species associated with carrion (3–6 month postmortem (2)). They may have found their way through the ventilation system from the autopsy room, possibly aided by negative pressure within the shafts.

The flies were determined as a species of the same family as *Eristalis*, *Episyrphus balteatus* (DE GEER). *Episyrphus balteatus* larvae feed on aphids; adults are frequently found in gardens, often in swarms, and they are the most common hoverfly species in Cologne (3). Due to their ecology, the presence of *Episyrphus* adults cannot

be associated with corpses in the autopsy room. It was suggested that a swarm of *Episyrphus* living in an old graveyard nearby entered the building through an open window at the end of a corridor, reached the sterile room but could not escape because of orienting themselves towards a closed but bright window.

Acknowledgment

The article (1) is dedicated to Prof. Dr. med. M. Staak on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

References

1. Benecke M. Six forensic entomology cases: description and commentary. J Forensic Sci 1998;43(4):797–805.
2. Smith KGV. A manual of forensic entomology. London: The Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History), 1986.
3. Leopold J, Schöne M, Cölln K. Zur Kenntnis der Schwebfliegen (Diptera, Syrphidae) der Stadt Köln und ihrer Randgebiete. In: Hoffmann H-J, Wipking W, Cölln K, editors. *Beiträge zur Insekten-, Spinnen und Molluskenfauna der Großstadt Köln (II)*, Decheniana Beihefte 35, Bonn: Naturhistorischer Verein der Rheinlande und Westfalens, 1996; 433–458.