



ANIMAL HEALTH  
MONITORING



In accordance with FELASA  
recommendations.

# MITE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION SERVICES

Fera Science Ltd is an internationally renowned scientific centre with over 50 years' experience in storage mite research.

## Why are mites a problem?

Storage mites are commonly found but considered pseudoparasites of laboratory animal facilities. Booklice (*Liposcelis* spp.), storage mites (e.g. *Acarus* spp., *Tyrophagus* spp. and *Glycyphagid* mites), and stored product beetles (e.g. *Tribolium* spp., *Lathridiidae* spp., *Sitophilus* spp. etc) are all common stored-product pests. They are not usually considered during quarantine of laboratory animals or targeted as part of routine pest control programmes. Detection of the early stages of infestation, when numbers are low, is extremely difficult. Consequently, an infestation goes unnoticed until numbers have increased dramatically.

The presence of large numbers of storage mites are problematic because some laboratory animal species may be susceptible to acariosis, a syndrome described in humans that is caused by mite invasion of various tissues. Storage mites, particularly grain mites, can be confused with rodent ectoparasites leading to additional testing or unnecessary treatment and ultimately culling of rodent colonies.



[fera.co.uk/animal-health-monitoring](http://fera.co.uk/animal-health-monitoring)

Mites may also act as vectors or fomites for the transmission of adventitious agents in laboratory animal facilities. The damage caused by mite infestation can lead to direct financial losses due to the deterioration of food stores.

In addition, growing evidence links mites and their by-products to the increase in human allergy and has been demonstrated as a risk associated with laboratory animal facilities.

### How can Fera help?

Based on our extensive scientific and practical expertise, we offer a complete package of services to help you limit the effect of mite infestation. We can help you maintain your facility health status by providing you with an early warning, identifying numbers of mites present, assisting in determining the causes, and suggesting steps to overcome the problem.

### The BT mite trap

The BT trap was the first trap specifically designed for the detection of storage mites. The robust trap contains an attractant made from non-toxic ingredients, allowing its use in a diverse range of premises and environments. The traps detect live mites and provide early indications of problem areas, pinpointing hidden mite infestations and refuges, giving you the opportunity to target remedial treatments and resources for best effect. Subsequent routine monitoring of premises for mites allows the effectiveness of control measures to be assessed.

## Get in touch

For more information about how we can help you protect your research facility from the risk of mite damage, please e-mail the team at

[animalhealth@fera.co.uk](mailto:animalhealth@fera.co.uk)

[www.fera.co.uk](http://www.fera.co.uk)

[@FeraScience](https://twitter.com/FeraScience)

[/FeraUK1](https://www.facebook.com/FeraUK1)

[/fera-science](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fera-science)

[thescientistschannel.com/fera-science-uk](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

[labtube.tv/channel/ferascienceltd](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Traps are supplied 'ready to use' with easy to follow instructions. On return to Fera, the numbers and types of mites collected are carefully assessed by our fully trained personnel. Customers are then sent a detailed report, including guidance on which mites are likely to cause a problem and require remedial action.

### Consultancy and training

Practical experience of working with mites in many situations means that Fera specialists can provide a bespoke advisory service for customers. We will work with your facilities to identify areas at potential risk of mite infestation. We focus closely on risk management. Practical action plans appropriate to the situation and, where possible, applicable to the existing framework for hygiene management are provided.

### Quality assurance

The laboratory is accredited to the quality assurance standard ISO 9001 for the provision of scientific services in the areas of agriculture, food and the environment to government and non-government customers worldwide.



The BT mite trap

