S459
Symposium
Global emergence of bed bugs - an increasing cause of dermatitis

Bedbugs are brown and flat insects. Adults are 4 - 7 mm long and larvae 1 - 3 mm long. The common bed bug, Cimex lectularius and the tropical bed bug, Cimex hemipterus are blood-sucking insects. They are nocturnal, feeding painlessly only in the dark, while humans sleep. Decades ago, they were frequent and harmful worldwide, but reports of cases have progressively declined in developed countries, probably due to improved living conditions. They nonetheless remain a pest in less developed countries. A dramatic increase of reported bedbug infestations has been observed worldwide since 90's, Bed bugs have become especially problematic in the United States, Australia, Canada and too rare infestations are reported in Europe however entomologic experts familiar with its increase. Travelers are particularly exposed to the risks of bedbug bites, infestation of personal belongings, and subsequent contamination of newly visited accommodations and their homes. Bedbug infestations have been detected across a wide range of travel accommodations, regardless of their comfort and hygiene levels. Site assessment for bedbug eradication is complex but can be assured, despite emerging insecticide resistance, by hiring a pest-control manager. To detect infested sites, avoid or limit bedbug bites, and reduce the risk of contaminating one's belongings and home, bedbug biology and ecology must be understood. Unfortunately their presence is revealed several weeks later when the patient discovers a pruriginous cutaneous eruption of unknown origin. The common dermatological presentation of bites is an itchy maculopapular wheal. Urticarial reactions and anaphylaxis can also occur. Bedbugs are suspected of transmitting infectious agents. About 45 potential candidate pathogens have been suspected to be transmitted by bed bugs. But no report has yet demonstrated that they are infectious disease vectors. Because of increasing demands for information about effective control tactics and public health risks of bedbugs, continued research is needed to identify new pathogens in wild Cimex species (spp) and insecticide resistance.