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FROM CAVES TO COUCHES

• Bed bugs have been with us through the ages dating back to prehistoric times

• Evolved as parasites on bats, and switched hosts to feed on our cave-dwelling ancestors.

•When humans developed an agrarian society, bed bugs moved with us from cave to hut, to the house, to the hotel, to medical facility.





• Coriander seeds are also frequently found in tombs. Coriander is native to Egypt and the Sudan.



• Coriandrum sativum - derived from the Greek word "Koris" which means 'bed bug". Probably because the plant smells

strongly like the insects.



• Mentioned in medieval European texts (400–476 AD), and classical Greek writings back to the time of Aristotle (384 BCE – 322 BCE).

• May have been first introduced into the Americas by early European colonists. Colonial writings document severe bed bug problems in the English colonies and in Canada, but not in Indian

villages.

•Old sailing ships were notoriously infested with bed bugs, ships often forbade

passengers from bringing bedding on board.





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MARCH 18, 2008 Fox Newsroom in Midtown Besieged by Bed Bugs Guests at Fox News now have more to worry about than Bill O'Reilly's barking; there are also bed bugs biting. A senior vice president for operations and



Guests at Fox News now have more to worry about than Bill O'Reilly's barking; there are also bed bugs biting. A senior vice president for operations and engineering at Fox News had nothing better to do yesterday than speak to the biased, freedom-hating New York Times about the situation, <u>confirming</u> that the Manhattan newsroom discovered the problem a few weeks ago, when an employee "caught a bug and showed it to us."

Bedbugs are adept at hitchhiking to new locales in the pockets and clothing creases of their human hosts, so it's not surprising that they've managed to infiltrate Fox, where patriotic Alpha-male hot blood surges in abundance. An exterminator called in to Fox said that one unnamed employee's

apartment has "the worst infestation he had seen in 25 years in the business."

It's still unclear whose apartment the exterminator referred to, but bed bugs have been known to savor the blood (and furry protection) <u>of male bears</u>. Fox swears the bed bugs have been "totally eradicated," but the annoying thing about bed bugs is their tenacious ability to survive for months between feedings, and in some cases they can live up to a year <u>before sucking blood again</u>. The bed begs have clearly <u>refused to let</u> <u>New Yorkers rest</u>, but their sudden infiltration of Dick Cheney's favorite news source can mean only one thing: Al Qaeda training.

Bed bugs have only recently been subjected to study for the first time since the middle of the last century, and the observed health implications are mild to moderate. Not Known to Vector Pathogens

- •Potential allergen and respiratory effects (similar to cockroaches)
- •Sleep disturbance results in fatigue and mental health complications
- •Bites cause mild to serious skin reactions
- •Delusionary parasitosis may be incited
- •Pesticide poisoning
- •Economic hardship a business concern for health care and long-term care facilities



•Bed bugs feed on the blood of humans, birds and mice.

• Feed at night - mainly

•Salivary secretions can cause a person's skin to itch and become swollen

• Scratching can lead to infected sores













EPA and CDC joint statement describes bed bugs as: "a pest of significant public health importance"



• Found naturally infected with ≥ 28 human pathogens

•Never proven to transmit any human disease

•Salivary proteins cause "sensitivity" to repeated bites

• <u>5 stages</u>: no reaction; delayed reaction; both immediate & delayed; immediate reaction only; & finally, no reaction.

• True hypersensitivity can develop (anaphylaxis)

- •Anemia
- •Asthma
- Bullous eruptions (multiple bites)
- Serious social stigma to "having" an infestation

40 bed bugs are in a 70°F room on May 2. By Nov 2 there are 5,905!



























with a crevice attachment







Beds, bedding, headboards; Luggage racks; Wallpaper; Window and door casings; Pictures and artwork on walls; Edges of carpets, baseboards, carpet stays; Where ceilings and walls meet; Behind light switch covers/outlets; Clothes; Appliances and furniture.





























