



# Luring biscuit beetles (Coleoptera: Anobiidae) away from dried ornamental plants

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## Introduction

Though they don't pose a direct threat to public health, biscuit beetles (*Stegobium paniceum*) can be a significant pest in the food industry but, also very damaging in susceptible museum and herbarium collections (Pinniger 2015: 31).

There are very few commercially available species specific traps and this small trial was carried out to test the effectiveness of one of them.

## Methods

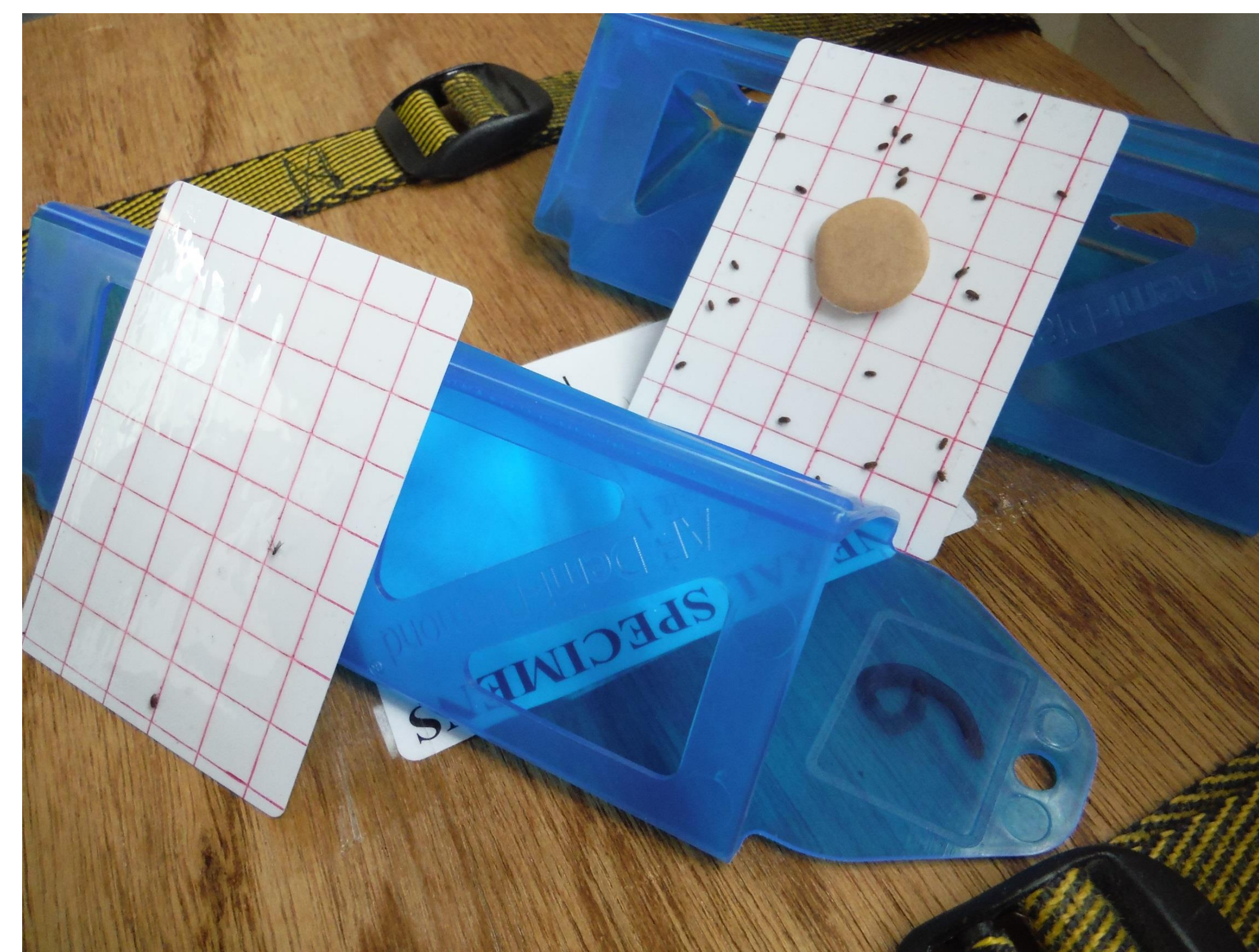
Pheromone lures, not commercially available in the UK, were stuck to generic glue traps, typically used for monitoring crawling insect pest activity. The lures were stuck on the glue traps but not in the orientation suggested by the manufacturer.

Pairs of traps, with and without the pheromone lures, were hung around the herbarium and inspected regularly.

## Results

As shown in the 'hotspot' maps on the right, the traps with the pheromone lures clearly performed better than the traps without the lure.

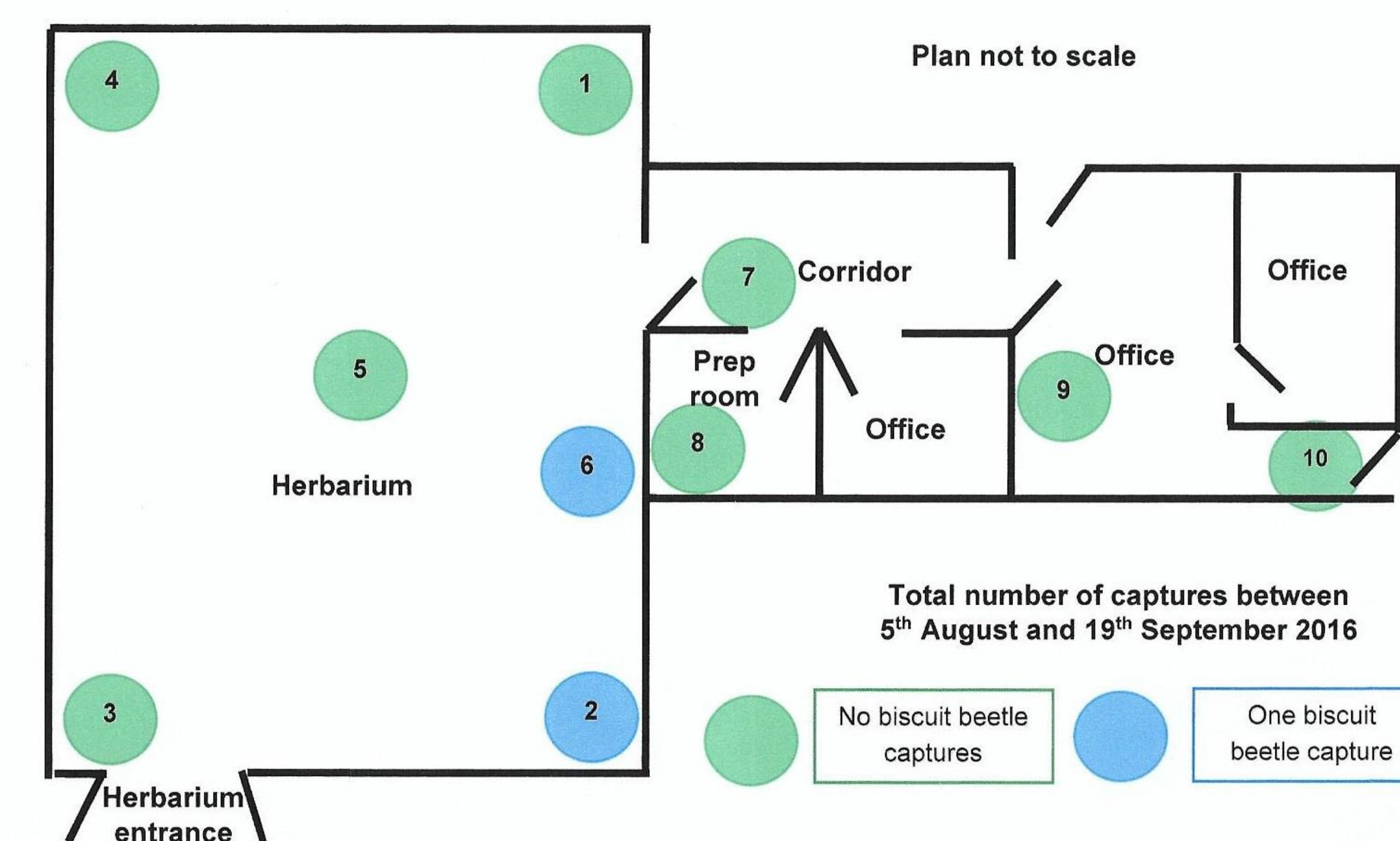
The following photograph shows the most significant difference in captures, from the pair of traps at location 6.



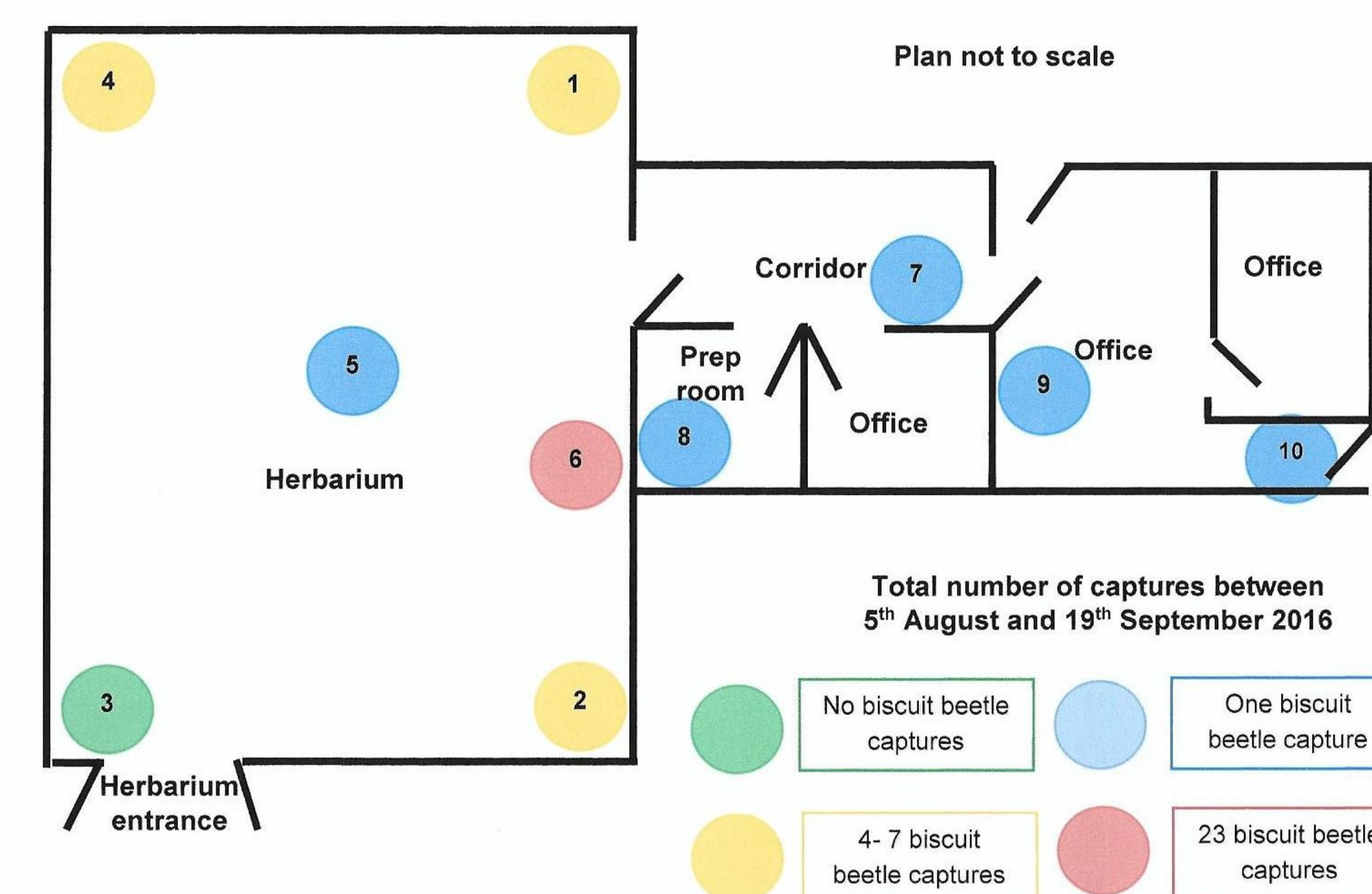
In the six week period that the traps were deployed, results soon indicated but also confirmed where the epicentre of the problem existed.

The lured traps continued to attract *Stegobium paniceum* beyond the data recorded here, and beyond the manufacturers recommended replacement interval.

Biscuit beetle distribution in Herbarium on traps without lures



Biscuit beetle distribution in Herbarium on traps with lures



## Conclusions

Although a small trial, it was evident that *Stegobium paniceum* were attracted to the lured traps in preference to the traps that were free of the pheromone lures.

The data obtained, has helped indicate where a population of biscuit beetles may be breeding in the herbarium, and help focus further inspection and future treatments.

Though not shown here, this small trial was repeated at two food manufacturing sites, with the same observations about the effectiveness of the pheromone lure being made.

## Further Research

Although not currently commercially available in the UK, it is hoped that following this small trial and others, that the pheromone lure will be made available through a UK distributor.

## References and cited literature

Pinniger, D. (2015). Integrated Pest Management in Cultural Heritage. Pp. 142. Archetype Publications. ISBN 978-1-909492-22-6



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