

A Bordelais gold medalist at the Lépine competition with an Asian hornet vacuum cleaner

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Ten years of reflection

Born in 1965 in Bordeaux, Manuel Augusto one day came face to face with an Asian hornet’s nest under the eaves of his house. It all started from there. “I didn’t know how to intervene, he says, you can’t approach these nests because there are guards. A few days later, it was a dream that brought me the solution: I saw a device that allowed me to eradicate hornets while staying at a distance. It was in 2013. During all these years, he took advantage of the rare moments of freedom alongside his position as business manager in a sheet metal company to refine his idea.

Manuel Augusto with a model of his invention made for the Lépine competition, which shows the hornet chopper in the tube of the vacuum cleaner. The marketed model will not be transparent.
Claude Petit / “SOUTH WEST”

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“When the confinement arrived, I had time, I reworked the project”, he continues. The idea of the vacuum cleaner is there, but the element that destroys the hornet is missing. A second dream brings the solution: “I dreamed of a tube crossed by small blades. I got up, I drew it immediately. He entrusts the production of a prototype to GRYP 3D, an SME specializing in digital printing, in Bordeaux. First tests, it works.

“It’s perfect for primary nests”

The chopper tube is installed inside the telescopic cannula, which makes it possible to reach a nest 3 meters away. Then simply connect it to any vacuum cleaner and walk the end of the pole near the nest. “It’s perfect for primary nests that queens always set up in the immediate vicinity of houses. But if it’s a big nest high in a tree, you need to call in a pro. My system is the only chemical free Asian, Oriental or Japanese hornet eradicator. It is not toxic either for biodiversity or for humans, unlike insecticide bombs. »

Manuel Augusto multiplies the tests and, at the same time, he creates a brand, BeeZen, then files a patent, compulsory for registration in the Lépine competition. “Without bragging, I was sure to get the medal, because it’s an invention of public utility! “, he says. Now the hard part begins: finding a manufacturer and a distributor. Manuel Augusto and his partner in BeeZen, Benoît Chalmé, say they already have many contacts. “And also a lot of people who want to buy right away, while the object is not yet in production! Objective: to have it manufactured in France and to hold an attractive price.

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