

## Feature

# Clothing to stop scent

Tim Weston looks at an innovative way to get closer to your quarry.

HUNTERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE BEEN trying to gain every advantage possible over our prey. In the early days of the human race it was one of the reasons we started to develop tools, to gain an advantage over our quarry be that during the hunt or to make it easier to process the animal once dead.

The quest seems to be never ending. The advent of firearms made hunting easier, optics for rifles, camouflage

clothing as well helped and now the NGO

Deer Branch rifle partner

Browning has developed a clothing range that masks the human scent.

Based on the fact that game animals' senses are developed to be perfectly suited to their living environment, the aim of the Browning Hell's Canyon clothing range is to help hunters gain an advantage over quarry animals by giving them the edge even when it comes to environmental factors such as scent. The Hell's Canyon range of clothes also comes in Mossy Oak Infinity Cammo which blends in perfectly with surroundings to give that bit of extra cover.

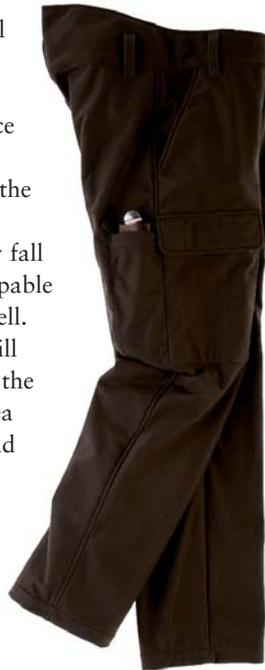
Odour is caused by specific bacteria that thrive on human skin. When those bacteria metabolize, the waste products they produce creates what we know as smell and that can be detected by humans, deer, foxes and other animals. In the last issue of *Keeping the Balance* (Autumn 2013, page 36), we looked at how scent travels through the air and how this can affect your positioning when sitting out for a fox or stalking a deer, but with the new OdorSmart technology from Browning and the clever camouflage from Mossy Oak this will eliminate a significant amount of that worry.

So, how does OdorSmart actually work? Simply stated, OdorSmart uses silver ions, which are well known for

their anti-bacterial properties. Silver has been proven to eradicate bacterial cells' capacity to create the chemical links that they need to survive.

These links produce the cells' physical structure so when the bacteria encounter silver, they literally fall apart and are incapable of producing a smell. The OdorSmart will attack bacteria on the skin and in the area immediately around the skin, killing them before they start to produce odours.

Using this type of system can have certain draw backs, for example you will need to be totally covered for the



system to work to its full potential. Head, face, hands and body will all need to be covered by the OdorSmart clothing and on a hot day that could be uncomfortable. It is far better suited to sitting and waiting in ambush which would be more likely to keep you from losing too much weight in sweat! A

system of this kind can give you some real advantages over your prey and can be looked at for those of you who have difficult areas where the wind may play havoc with where you can sit.



### BROWNING'S ANTI-SCENT TECHNOLOGY

Following concerns over some technologies used in anti-scent clothing, Pierre Lambert of Browning commented on OdorSmart used in their products: "I confirm that silver ions are very effective against killing bacteria. Also, the main concern that we have is with the nanoparticles that are used by some antimicrobials to deliver the safe silver ions. It is the nanoparticles that can be released during washes and could potentially be set free in the waste stream that need to be of concern. These nanoparticles release silver ions wherever they go and, for many of these technologies, they have no means of attaching to the fabric so they can be washed away with simple launderings. There is legitimate concern regarding where these nanoparticles go and what can happen downstream. SILVADUR [as used in this clothing range] is not a nanoparticle.

"The key to the use of silver ion technology to control the build-up of bacteria on surfaces is the delivery system. The Dow SILVADUR system (integrated to our Odorsmart technology) is a reactive polymer system that binds directly to the fabric surface so that it cannot be washed away like various nanoparticle materials. The polymer system stays attached to the fabric and releases silver ions only at the surface of the textile. The polymer system is not removed during normal washing and so it won't be released into the environmental waste stream. This is one of the main reasons why this technology won the R&D 100 award for top new technical developments in the world. Other antimicrobial agents have characteristics that allow them to leach off of the fabric which should be of concern. Triclosan does have some extremely disconcerting attributes and (we also believe) shouldn't be used to control odour in textiles."