

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

89/07

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

RESTRICTED



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

INCIDENT NUMBER 89/07
PART OF STUDY PGD-270
REGIONAL NUMBER W/07/15
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0098/08/07
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth , WAG
LOCATION [REDACTED]
Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 25 August 2007
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT carbofuran abuse
DATE OF REPORT 13 March 2008

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED: ... [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

3 buzzard
2 pheasant carcass (bait?)
3 sample

COPIED TO



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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
70220	buzzard	tissues	6/9/07	29/80098/08/07 1
70230	buzzard	tissues	6/9/07	29/B0098/08/07 2
70233	buzzard	tissues	6/9/07	29/B0098/08/07 3
70459	pheasant carcase (bait?)		20/9/07	29/B0098/08/07
71895	sample		11/1/08	Spee ref 1 exhibit 1: Miracle grow
71896	sample		11/1/08	spec ref 2: Tom Cat-blue pellets
71897	sample		11/1/08	spec ref 3: unlabelled container

Summary of field data

The bodies of three buzzards WERE found at the side of a track lying next to two pheasant poultts which had had their crops slit open.

On 10 January 2008, an unannounced search was undertaken of a premises. Some outbuildings were searched and a bottle marked Miracle grow was removed as it appeared to contain brown pellets and a small amount of blue pellets; it was reported that nothing else had been added to the container. In another building, a tub marked Tom Cat-bromadiolone was found and this contained blue pellets so a sample was removed. There was also an unmarked tub, containing blue cereal material, which was supplied by a pest control friend. The owner was informed that the legislation required pesticides to be in properly labelled containers and a sample of this was retained. Various veterinary products were also within the store, including an old metal container of Deosan diazinon dip and enquiries were to be made regarding the approval status of this product.

Summary of post mortem report

Three buzzards were submitted for post-mortem and were well feathered and in good bodily condition. No external lesions or abnormalities were noted although there were significant numbers of maggots associated with each carcase. There was significant autolysis of the alimentary systems and Intestines of all the birds. Bird 1 had an empty crop; bird two had a crop containing a large amount of carrion; bird 3's crop contained a moderate amount of carrion. The proventricular and gizzard contents were as follows: bird 1 had a large amount of fibrinous content; bird 2 had a moderate amount of fibrinous content; bird 3 had a small amount of carrion and liquid. All other systems were either not examined or unremarkable. There was no significant evidence of trauma or other abnormalities. The cause of death was not apparent.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

70230	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	48	mg/kg
70459		carbofuran	confirmed	1600	µg
71895		no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg

Analysis : metaldehyde

71896	no metaldehyde detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

70230	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.7	mg/kg
70459		no organophosphate detected	detection limit	3	µg



Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

70220	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
70230	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
70233	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
71896		bromadiolone	confirmed	4	mg/kg
71897		difenacoum	confirmed	21	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that these buzzards had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of carbofuran in gizzard contents from one bird and this is likely to be the cause of its death. Both pheasant carcasses had a similar slit down the chest and one of these was analysed and also confirmed as containing carbofuran. It appears that pheasant carcasses have been intentionally laced with carbofuran and at least three buzzards may have died as a result of this action. This is an abuse of the pesticide.

Analyses have been completed on three further samples that were submitted for tests. A residue of bromadiolone was confirmed in the Tom Cat product and a residue of difenacoum was confirmed in the material from the unmarked container. The pellets from the miracle grow container were tested for a range of carbamate compounds, which includes carbofuran, but no residue was found.

This replaces the earlier restricted report issued on the 19 November 2007.