

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

27/10



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 27/10
PART OF STUDY FSGD-100
REGIONAL NUMBER W/10/03
OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0209-03-10
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Bettws Bledrws
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN5852
INCIDENT DATE 22 March 2010
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT fenthion
veterinary use
DATE OF REPORT 21 June 2010

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED : ..

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
84811	red kite	tissues	1/4/10	Specimen No: 1. VLA No: 29/B0209/03/10.

Summary of field data

A red kite was found hanging from a tree by a member of the public. The incident was reported to the Welsh Kite Trust and was then collected. The kite had a full crop and the mouth was full of what looked like chicken. A pair of kites were nesting nearby. The kite was delivered to the VLA. The site has a previous history of organophosphate poisoning.

Summary of post mortem report

One female red kite weighing 1.4kg was submitted for post-mortem. The body condition was good and autolysis was moderate. There were no identification tags or rings. The crop was very dilated and contained the foot and bones of a chicken limb together with muscles and feathers. There was also a rubber ring and wool belonging to a lamb carcase. The rest of the intestinal tract was devoid of ingesta. It is possible that the material in the crop caused impaction. This may have caused the bird to starve. No other lesions were present in the organs examined. However, the endocrine and nervous system were not examined. Poisoning cannot be ruled out in this case.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

84811	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.05	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha

84811	gizzard contents	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

84811	gizzard contents	fenthion	confirmed	170	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

84811	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.04	mg/kg
84811	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.03	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of fenthion in the gizzard contents of this red kite. The amount found is significant and is likely to be the cause of death. Fenthion was approved as a sheep dip and so this incident has been assigned to veterinary use. However, this active substance has no current approval and so an illegal use of it is possible. Further tests for anticoagulant rodenticides will be completed and a revised report issued if a residue is found.

Further tests have been completed on this red kite and a residue of difenacoum and brodifacoum was confirmed in the liver. This confirms that the red kite has also been exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides and the presence of brodifacoum is of more concern, as this is restricted to in-door use.

This replaces the earlier report issued on the 27 May 2010.