WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 93/19

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER	93/19
PART OF STUDY	FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER	W/19/22
OTHER REFERENCES	28/B0040/11/19
SENDER	VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION	Bodnant Gardens Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE	SH7972
INCIDENT DATE	3 November 2019
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT	diazinon veterinary use
DATE OF REPORT	19 December 2019

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : ..... [redacted] **...**

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99766	red kite		15/11/19	28/B0040/11/19 : W/19/22
99766	red kite	tissues	15/11/19	28/B0040/11/19 : W/19/22

Summary of field data

A member of the public found a dead red kite in Bodnant gardens. The RSPB were contacted the following day by the finder and National Trust staff located the bird and collected it on 5th November. An image taken of the bird appeared to show a pale substance on the beak. There was a previous incident that involved a buzzard nearby (60/19, W/19/15 - background exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides). The red kite was collected and arrangements were made to transfer it to the APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

A female red kite in good body condition, weight 850g and moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There was matted fur/hair and grey coloured pasty material protruding from the beak and extending into the oropharynx and into the crop. Similar material was filling the crop. Grey hair was attached to skin and was present in the proventriculus and gizzard. The hair was coarse, light grey and up to 3cm long. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99766	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.006	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99766	stomach contents	diazinon	confirmed	460	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99766	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0021	mg/kg
99766	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.049	mg/kg
99766	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.064	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was supected that this red kite had been poisoned. Priority analysis for carbamate pesticides and metaldehyde has been undertaken on the submitted sample, but no residues were detected. From the findings so far, this appears to be a poisoning case and further testing will be completed and a revised report issued.

The further testing has been completed and a large residue of diazinon was detected and confirmed in the gizzard content, which consisted of matted hair/fur, semi-digested meat, skin, feathers and vegetation. There were also confirmed residues of brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difenacoum in the liver of this red kite, but the amounts found are consistent with exposure only. Therefore, the cause of death of this red kite is from exposure to diazinon and illegal use is suspected, but the incident has been assigned to veterinary use at present.

This replaces the earlier report issued on the 28th November 2019.

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