

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

111/21



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 111/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/19
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0077-06-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Dan-y-Rhiw, Cwmaman
Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE ST0099
INCIDENT DATE 15 June 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 3 March 2022

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

3 magpie

COPIED TO

Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

Fera Science Ltd.

York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

E-mail: wiis@fera.co.uk

www.fera.co.uk

T: +44 (0)300 100 0321

E: sales@fera.co.uk

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
100470	magpie		25/6/21	28/B0077/06/21: 1
100470	magpie	tissues	25/6/21	28/B0077/06/21: 1
100471	magpie		25/6/21	28/B0077/06/21: 2
100471	magpie	tissues	25/6/21	28/B0077/06/21: 2

Summary of field data

Three dead magpies were seen underneath a tree on a grass verge at the side of a road. There are houses on one side of the road and the other side is a footpath leading to a Country Park. There have been a number of dead crows that have been noticed in the general area over the past six weeks and so finding three dead magpies in one day was considered suspicious and there was concern that the birds were being poisoned. Welsh Government were contacted and arrangements were made to get the carcasses to the APHA. This is a country park with residential housing.

Summary of post mortem report

Three dead magpies were submitted for post-mortem in a black plastic bag and an outer cardboard box. There were two females that were in a poor body condition and severe autolysis. The other carcass had very severe autolysis and it was missing all internal viscera and was unsuitable for post-mortem examination. The female birds had sunken eyes, shrivelled into the skull. There was poor pectoral musculature. In magpie one, there was very scant gizzard contents and a few yellow fibrous fragments. In magpie two, there was a blood clot in oropharynx and moderate gizzard fill of yellow grains and fibrous fragments. There was a blood clot in the proximal trachea and epicardial haemorrhage. They both had active ovaries. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100470	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	1	mg/kg
100471	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100470	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.018	mg/kg
100470	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg
100471	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.013	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that these magpies had been poisoned, as there had been several corvid deaths in the area. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples from both magpies. These tests have detected and confirmed small residues of brodifacoum in the liver of both magpies and one magpie also had a small residue of bromadiolone. These residues are consistent with background exposure levels only and are unlikely to be the cause of death of these magpies. These magpies had not been feeding well prior to death and the cause of their death remains uncertain.

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