

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

73/11



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 73/11
PART OF STUDY FSGD-130
REGIONAL NUMBER W/11/13
OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0091-06-11
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Brechfa
Carmarthenshire
GRID REFERENCE SN5231
INCIDENT DATE 24 June 2011
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT fenthion
veterinary use
DATE OF REPORT 25 August 2011

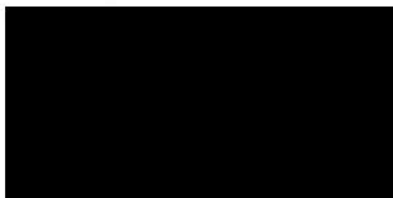
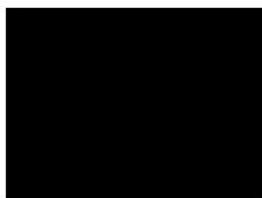
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite
1 chick red kite

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
91280	red kite	29/6/11	VLA ref 29-B0091-06-11
91280	red kite	tissues 29/6/11	VLA ref 29-B0091-06-11
91282	chick red kite	29/6/11	VLA ref 29-B0091-06-11
91282	chick red kite	tissues 29/6/11	VLA ref 29-B0091-06-11

Summary of field data

A dead female red kite was found 100 yards from its nest. The find was reported to the Welsh Kite Trust, who went to collect the bird two days later. On its collection a dead chick was also found in the nest. Both birds appeared to be in good condition and the chick was ready to fledge, so Welsh Assembly Government were contacted. The male red kite is still present and is leaving food for the chick. There is some game interest in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

A well feathered female adult red kite was submitted, weighing 1.048kg in a good body condition with moderate to severe autolysis. The bird was well muscled. There is a whole mole present in the gizzard. The lungs were congested, especially posteriorly. Other systems were unremarkable. The male chick weighed 986 g and was in a good body condition with moderate autolysis. It was well feathered, some of the feathers were of juvenile appearance. It was well muscled with fairly substantial fat deposits. There was the remains of an unidentified small mammal in the crop and gizzard with a nematode worm. Other systems were unremarkable.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

91280	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

91280	gizzard contents	fenthion	confirmed	22	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

91280	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.04	mg/kg
91280	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.00075	mg/kg
91280	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.066	mg/kg
91282	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0005	mg/kg
91282	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg

Analysis : strychnine analysis suite

91280	gizzard contents	no strychnine detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that these red kites 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 fenthion in the gizzard content of the adult red kite and the amount found is consistent with pesticide poisoning as the cause of death. There were also residues of difenacoum, brodifacoum and bromadiolone confirmed in the liver of the adult bird and bromadiolone and difenacoum confirmed in the liver of the chick. These residues were considered to be consistent with exposure only. This incident has been attributed to veterinary use, as fenthion was approved as a veterinary pesticide. However, there are no current approvals for this active substance and so an illegal use is suspected. There have been at least two other previous incidents with this pesticide in this area; 27/10, W/10/03 and 16/11, W/11/04 refer.