

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

66/12



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 66/12
PART OF STUDY FSGD-170
REGIONAL NUMBER W/12/10
OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0060-05-12
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Beulah
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SN9149
INCIDENT DATE 14 May 2012
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT fenthion
veterinary use
DATE OF REPORT 1 August 2012

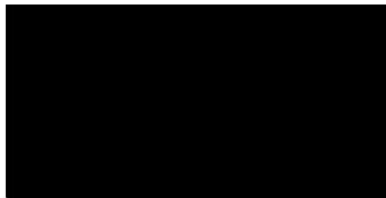
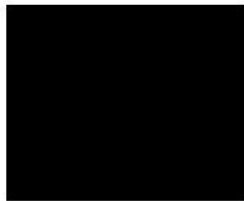
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ... [REDACTED] ...

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO



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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
95637	red kite	31/5/12	29-B0060-05-12 : W/12/10
95637	red kite	31/5/12	29-B0060-05-12 : W/12/10
	tissues		

Summary of field data

One red kite was found dead under a nest. The nest was located above a minor road. The finder had driven past the where the bird was found approximately one and a half hours before and the bird had not been there. The bird was fresh and had food in its mouth. The finder reported having seen other dead birds over several months before this incident. There was a case of suspected poisoning in the area several years prior to this incident (191/99, W/99/26, carbofuran, abuse refers). The red kite nest had been checked ten days prior to the incident, at which point both birds were reported to be present. After the incident the nest was checked and appeared to be damaged, possibly by high winds. The other red kite was not seen and no other dead animals or birds were found. There are some game interests in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

One dead female red kite weighing 990 g was submitted for post mortem. The bird was in good to fair condition and had undergone only moderate autolysis. There was no gross evidence of trauma or disease. The skin and subcutis was well feathered and the musculo-skeletal system reasonably well muscled. In the alimentary system the gizzard contained wool among which there were four orange lamb docking/castration rings and a piece of bone about 4 cm long. In the respiratory system the left lung was very congested. In the reproductive system the ovary appeared inactive with ovules 1 to 2 mm in diameter. The endocrine system was not examined. The other systems were unremarkable.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

95637	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.05	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha

95637	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.9	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

95637	gizzard contents	fenthion	confirmed	11	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

95637	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.012	mg/kg
95637	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0058	mg/kg
95637	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0009	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned, possibly after consuming lamb remains. 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 this bird. The amount found is considered to be consistent with fenthion exposure as the cause of death of the bird. There were also residues of difenacoum, brodifacoum and bromadiolone noted in the liver of this bird, although these are unlikely to have contributed to the death of the bird. This incident has been attributed to veterinary use, as fenthion was approved as a veterinary product, but it is suspected that an illegal use of it has occurred.