



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 82/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/16/01
OTHER REFERENCES 28-M028&185-01-16
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Presteigne
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SO2798
INCIDENT DATE 1 January 2016
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT mixture of rodenticides unspecified
DATE OF REPORT 23 June 2016

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
2 badger

COPIED TO
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
98392	badger	13/4/16	28-M0185-01-16 : Spec. 2
98392	badger tissues	13/4/16	28-M0185-01-16 : Spec. 2
98410	badger	19/4/16	28-M028-01-016 : Spec. 1
98410	badger tissues	19/4/16	28-M028-01-016 : Spec. 1

Summary of field data

A badger was found dead in a sett entrance, with its head poking out. The badger was in good condition when found on New Year's Day. Another dead badger was found close by, but in a decomposed state. [REDACTED] The informant contacted Welsh Government and after a discussion they collected the badger and delivered it to Welsh Government. It was then stored in a freezer awaiting delivery to APHA for a post mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A female badger (98410) weight 12.3kg with good body condition and a severe degree of autolysis was submitted for post mortem. The hair had been lost over the feet and the pads were falling off the feet. There was dark red discolouration in the groin area close to the left hind leg. The end of the nose and tissue around the mouth had been removed. There was dark red tissue, possible blood clots in the subcutaneous tissues of the ventral neck and dark red discolouration surrounding this into the muscles of the neck and anterior chest. There was also dark red fluid in subcutaneous tissues around the ventral jaw. The stomach contained a scant amount of dark green material and the remains of a few earthworms. No lesions suspicious of TB were detected in any of the lymph nodes examined, or in lungs, liver, kidneys or pericardium. Gross examination of the rest of the carcass did not reveal any significant abnormality, but the endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

98392	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
98410	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.7	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98392	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	1	mg/kg
98410	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98392	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.15	mg/kg
98392	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	3.1	mg/kg
98392	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.47	mg/kg
98410	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg
98410	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	2.7	mg/kg
98410	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.03	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that these badgers had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of anticoagulant rodenticides in the liver of both badgers and this was mainly brodifacoum, but also residues of bromadiolone and difenacoum. Given these results it is considered likely that these badgers died from exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides, particularly those products that contain brodifacoum. Given the size of the residues it is also considered possible that the badgers have had access to and consumed some rodenticide bait, which would be a misuse of the product. However, details of rodenticide treatments in the incident location are uncertain at present and so the incident has been attributed to unspecified use.