

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



45/14

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 45/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/14
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0188-07-14
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llangybi
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN6254
INCIDENT DATE 20 July 2014
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT diazinon
veterinary use
DATE OF REPORT 2 October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
97615	red kite		29/7/14	AHVLA ref 28-B0188-07-14
97615	red kite	tissues	29/7/14	AHVLA ref 28-B0188-07-14

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found beside a minor road. There were no obvious signs of injury. Previously another red kite was found dead in the area earlier in the year (12/14, W/14/03). The cause of death of this bird was not determined, although some anticoagulant rodenticides were noted. The finder collected and stored the bird in a cool place, until arrangements were made with Welsh Government to collect the carcase and transfer it to the AHVLA.

Summary of post mortem report

A female red kite, weight 931g, with poor body condition and moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The keel bone was palpable. Small maggots were present over the head. The carcase was dry. A large mass of skin and dark hair was present in the oesophagus, protruding into the mouth. Dark hair was present in the stomach. The kidneys were dark red. The ovary was inactive. Gross examination of the rest of the carcase did not detect any significant abnormality but the endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : GC-MS screen analysis suite

97615	gizzard contents	diazinon	confirmed	29	mg/kg
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Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

97615	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose

97615	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.4	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97615	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.04	mg/kg
97615	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.1	mg/kg
97615	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.017	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite 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 diazinon in the gizzard content of the bird and this is likely to have caused the death of it, although it was also noted to be in poor condition. There were also residues of three anticoagulant rodenticides, brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone, noted in the liver of this red kite. However, the exposure to diazinon would be the main cause of death of this bird and this is assumed to be through the veterinary use of this pesticide, although the use of it is uncertain at present.