

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

85/08



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 85/08
PART OF STUDY PGD-310
REGIONAL NUMBER W/08/21
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0149/06/08
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Trecastle, Brecon
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SN8628
INCIDENT DATE 22 June 2008
**SUSPECTED CAUSE
OF INCIDENT** mixture of rodenticides
unspecified
DATE OF REPORT 9 September 2008

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO



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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
74747	red kite	tissues	8/7/08	29/B0149/06/08 : 1

Summary of field data

An ill or injured red kite was found. The bird was found about 1km from a red kite nest and the bird was described as being sluggish. The bird was collected, but it died within the hour. The finder was not aware of any other incidents in the area. As the bird was tagged, the Welsh Kite Trust was contacted, but without success. The RSPB were notified instead and they reported the incident to the Welsh Assembly Government. The bird was collected from the finder and delivered to the VLA.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult bird (sex not determined) in fair body condition was submitted for post-mortem. There was 47 on the wing tag and GC11749 on a ring. Numerous maggots were present on the carcass, which were particularly concentrated around the head and the vent area. No other gross external lesions were noted and the skin, subcutis, musculo-skeletal and cardiovascular system were unremarkable. The liver was soft and autolytic. There were dark brown to grey liquid contents of the crop and gizzard. A small portion of small intestine only was present. The abdominal cavity contained a number of maggots, which were probably responsible for destruction of the remainder of the alimentary tract. There was a large haemorrhage around the right lung, with large blood clots present. There was autolytic change of the left lung, the majority of which was grey. The lymphoreticular and endocrine system were not examined, there was significant autolysis of the kidneys and the reproductive system was absent. The cranial cavity was empty, probably destroyed by maggots. Significant haemorrhage around the right lung, which could be due to trauma or toxins was noted. There were no gross external lesions to confirm trauma, but autolysis and maggots have compromised the examination of this carcass.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

74747	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.05	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha

74747	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	1	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

74747	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

74747	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.46	mg/kg
74747	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.07	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 residues of difenacoum and brodifacoum in the liver of this bird. Although the post-mortem findings have been compromised by autolysis, these results are considered to be significant and poisoning with anticoagulant rodenticides may have contributed to the death of the bird. Rodent control treatments with these pesticides are the likely source for this suspected poisoning, but the location and standard of these treatments are uncertain. Therefore, this incident has been assigned to unspecified use.