Coming Clean: A Warning re Mosquito Control efforts from Dr. Dennis Goode

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Subject: Coming Clean: A Warning re Mosquito Control efforts from Dr. Dennis Goode
Date: Fri, 13 Jul 2001 09:43:45 -0400
From: Stephen Tvedten <steve@getipm.com>
Organization: Get Set Inc. (www.getipm.com)
To: Paul Helliker <phelliker@cdpr.ca.gov>
    Director, State of California, Department of Pesticide Regulation
cc: Christine Whitman whitman.christine@epa.gov

Dear Mr. Helliker, I thought you might like to read a report entitled: Coming Clean: A Warning re Mosquito Control efforts from Dr. Dennis Goode.

This is from Dr. Dennis Goode, Department of Biology, University of Maryland, who presented this information to the officials at the Maryland Department of health. He says West Nile Virus "in general is a mild disease" unless it crosses the blood-brain barrier. He warns that pesticides can damage the blood-brain barrier making entry of WNV more possible. He also asserts that spraying pesticides makes the situation worse not only because of this but because of other serious health effects of pesticides which he cites with substantiating medical research documents.

Howard County Department of Health

June 20.2001

From: Dr. Dennis and Judith Goode
10605 Route 108
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Re: West Nile Virus Management Plans

Our major concern is that the adverse health effects of spraying may be greater than the effects of the West Nile virus (WNV). The New York State Health Department figures released last week show that many more people became sick from last year's WNV pesticide spraying than from the virus. Over 200 people reported symptoms from the mosquito spraying compared to 14 who became ill from the virus.

1. The pyrethroid insecticides proposed for adulticide spraying, permethrin and sumithrin, block nerve sodium channels in an open configuration and lead to prolonged or repetitive nervous stimuli that paralyze and eventually kill insects.

2. The effects on humans are similar at the cellular level. Inhaling pyrethroids can initiate headaches, asthmatic attacks, tremors, and convulsions. Sustained impulses can lead to axonal degeneration.

3. Extensive exposures can produce nervous system disorders, acquired sensitivities to pyrethroids and other chemicals, and scleraderma-like syndromes.

3. Pyrethroids are suspected carcinogens that stimulate proliferation of breast cancer and prostate cancer cells (8) and are linked to childhood brain cancer. "The specific chemicals associated with children's cancers were pyrethrins and pyrethroids (which are synthetic pyrethrins such as permethrin ---) and chlorpyrifos".

4. The synergist piperonyl butoxide (PBO) added to pyrethroid mosquito sprays is also a suspected carcinogen, as well as an inhibitor of cytochrome P450 system enzymes needed to break down pyrethroids and other toxins. Thus, PBO leads to greatly elevated and prolonged exposure of tissues to the toxins.

5. In general WNV is a mild disease. It only becomes serious encephalitis if the virus can cross the blood-brain barrier.

6. Among the agents that impair the blood-brain barrier in young rats are pyrethroid, organophosphate, and organochlorine pesticides.

7. Thus, insecticide spraying has the potential to worsen the process of WNV infection.

References:


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Well Mr. Helliker, Once again we see the "cure" is much worse than the disease. Yogi Berra once remarked: "If you don't know where you're going, when you get there you'll be lost." I would suggest that no one has had any idea where we are going, ever since we started to use/misuse your "registered" POISONS. There are thousands of safe and far more effective alternatives that actually control pest problems without harming innocent people and/or the environment. When will it be "legal" (in your opinion) to use safe and far more effective (unregistered) alternatives to actually control pest problems?

Respectfully, Stephen L. Tvedten

If you would like to be included in our mailing list for continuing information on pesticides, please email us at list@safe2use.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.