

SECONDARY POISONING HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH RODENTICIDE USE

B. A. Colvin

Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University,
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 U.S.A.

P. L. Hegdal

Wildlife Research Center, Building, 16, Federal Center, Denver,
Colorado 80225 U.S.A.

W. B. Jackson

Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University,
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 U.S.A.

Secondary poisoning may result when a rodent consumes a rodenticide bait and subsequently is consumed by a predator. Few field studies have been conducted to evaluate secondary hazards from rodenticide use. Among acute compounds, zinc phosphide generally is not secondarily hazardous; strychnine can pose a secondary hazard if predators consume stomach or cheek-pouch contents of poisoned prey; and 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) can pose a secondary hazard to mammalian predators, while the risk of raptors is minimal. Anticoagulants potentially are secondarily hazardous, especially to raptors. Hazards associated with any one rodenticide may vary significantly depending upon use pattern (e.g., commensal vs. field) and the foraging behavior and habitat use of nontarget wildlife. Secondary hazards are evaluated best with radiotelemetry. Results are interpreted using data on exposure (i.e., use of treated areas, acreage treated within a home range) residue chemistry, and survival/mortality.

Eleventh International Congress of Plant Protection
October 5-9, 1987
Manila, Philippines