


The Clean Air Action Group (CAAG)

www.levego.hu

- founded in 1988
- a national federation of 132 environmental NGOs

CAAG works mainly on greening:

- the state budget
- transport
- ambient air
- energy
- chemicals including pesticides, biocides
- urban management and urban development



Types of activities:

- research
- environmental counselling
- legal aid
- awareness raising
 - press
 - Lélegzet
 - public forums
 - campaigns
- proposals for decision-makers



International relations

Member organisation of:


- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)
- Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN-EUROPE)
- The International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)
- Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe)

Good working relations with:
– Birdlife International, CEE Bankwatch Network, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, WWF
– many national NGOs and other institutions




The initiation of our Biocide campaign

- In the spring of 2005 a local newspaper informed us in Budapest, Hungary, that the National Public Health and Medical Officer's Service (ÁNTSZ) uses for mosquito control a pesticide containing dichlorovos. (UNITOX 100 SC)
- They also did aerial spraying with deltamethrin


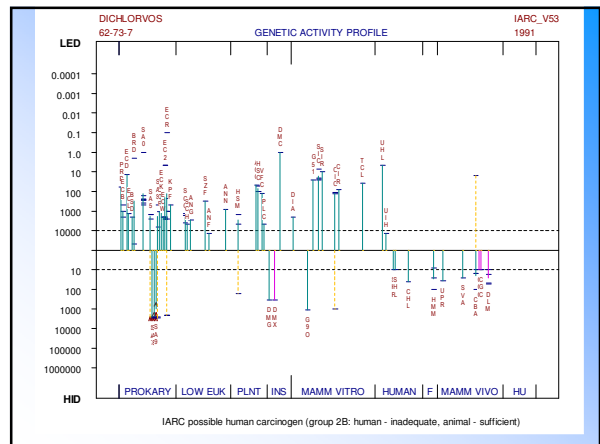


Dichlorovos (CASRN 62-73-7) is classified probable human carcinogen by the EPA (B2), and possible human carcinogen (2B) by the IARC. DDT has the same classification.



Our concerns

- Dichlorovos is a possible human carcinogen and mutagenic
- Several investigations concluded that this substance may cause childhood leukaemia and brain tumour.
- In the United States of America, its use was restricted in home use on account of the leukaemia cases.
- Owing to its probable carcinogenic effect, this chemical was banned in Denmark, in the UK and in Indonesia,
- In Hungary, pesticide containing dichlorovos (Unifosz 50ec) is permitted with a required labour hygiene waiting period of three days.
 - So for three days, humans without protective equipment and animals are not allowed to enter the treated area.
 - **The question may be asked: how is it possible that the same pesticide is being used on inhabited areas in the same dose and without any restrictions?**

Our concerns II.

- From an environmental protection aspect, it is disquieting that on inhabited areas, in public parks and in the neighborhood of private gardens (where pets and farm animals are kept) a substance with proven animal carcinogenic effect is being sprayed into the air
- We also requested a revision of the so-called "warm fog" technology,
 - i.e. when a active ingredient is sprayed into the air with diesel oil. Considering that diesel oil is Category I carcinogen, it is inadmissible that it is sprayed into the air on inhabited areas.



Our demands

- According to the Biocide Directive (98/8/EEC), the Directive on the risks related to exposure to carcinogens at work (90/394/EEC) and the Directive on risks related to chemical agents at work (98/24/EEC) the replacement of substances of very high concern by suitable safer alternative where available is mandatory
- The Hungarian Chemical Safety Institute declared that there is a safer alternative
- **So we demand immediate ban of dichlorvos in both agricultural use and in mosquito control!**



The outcome

- After our press release on protesting the use of dichlorvos and explaining the possible health effects, we had about 30-40 media appearance on the issue, all major TV stations and newspapers presented the case
- A Professor and scientists from Plant Protection Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences supported us with open letters
- In the end the authorities decided not to use dichlorvos in the rest of 2005 season.
- About the future of dichlorvos, there is no decision yet



Deltamethrin

- The other most widely used insecticide in Hungary against mosquitoes is
- Deltamethrin: one of the most toxic pyrethroide
 - dangerous to fishes, bees and aquatic organisms, and may also damage human health.
 - Relevant regulations do not allow these compounds to be let into live waters.
 - Pyrethroide compounds have been associated by many with the huge fish destruction occurrences in the Lake Balaton in Hungary.



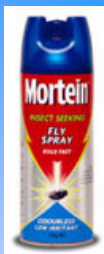
It is questionable whether the aerial spraying of this pesticide and the required five-metre protective distance from live waters can indeed provide effective guarantees for the protection of the environment.

We proposed a revision of all the permits for aerial spraying in Hungary.



Survey on home use biocides

- After we found out that the biocide situation is even worse than the pesticide Clean Air Action Group decided to complete a survey on the home use biocide products.
- Insecticides, due to their intended function, are all strong toxicants, so we found unacceptable that they are being continuously advertised in the mass media as harmless products, and are even scented to encourage their wider use.



We checked 92 products in four stores, and they contained 45 active ingredients.



The results

- We identified 11 active ingredients of concern.
- We found hormone-damaging, possible human carcinogens and immune modulating substances sold for home use.
- We also found more active ingredients which have been withdrawn from Annex I as a pesticide for different reasons.



The results

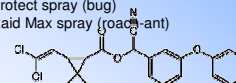
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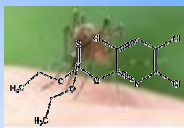
The results



Active ingredient and our concerns	Products
esbiothrin, esbiothrin, S-bioallethrin, esbiol, S-bioallethrin: Possible human carcinogen pyrethroide Very toxic to aquatic organisms.	Biolit vaporizer liquid (mosquito) Biolit vaporizer flan (mosquito) Biolit plus spay (wasp) Biolit spray (fly- mosquito) Biolit spray (roach-ant) Mortein vaporizer Orion mothball Orion protector Chemotox Vape flan (fly)
cypermethrin: Possible human carcinogen pyrethroide (only Hungary permitted to use it in the EU)	Mortein lure'n'kill spray (roach-ant) Protect spray (bug) Raid Max spray (roach-ant)



d-Phenothrin: Suspected endocrine disruptor and very toxic to aquatic organisms.	Mortein Ultra spray (fly- mosquito) Protect spray (fly- mosquito) Orion spray (fly- mosquito)
chlorpyrifos: hormone and nervous system damaging on humans and carcinogenic on animals Organophosphorus compound. Banned in the USA for home use It's safety data sheet says: Avoid exposure in flapperdom Remark: The risk of the trapa are much less then sprays or vaporizers	Orion trap (ant) Orion trap (roach) Protect granulate (ant) Raid trap (ant)
Metomil, methomyl: very toxic, damages the nervous and the hormom system	Protect szexferomon (fly)



d-allethrin, allethrin: Possible human carcinogen, hormone damaging pyrethroide (EU withdraw from Annex I of the permitted pesticides in 2003).	Biotoll Bengal spiral (mosquito) Protect B spiral (mosquito) Protect B flan (mosquito) Raid flan Raid spiral Raid vaporizer Vape spiral
bioallethrin: Possible human carcinogen, hormone damaging pyrethroide	Mortein Insect seeker spray (fly-mosquito) Uni-tox spray scented (fly-mosquito) Vape flan (fly)



 Permethrin: Possible human carcinogen pyrethroide Suspected endocrine disruptor EU withdraw from Annex I of the permitted pesticides in 2003	Biolit spray (fly-mosquito) Biolit spray (mothball) Chemotox spray (mothball) Chemotox spray (roach, ant) Chemotox repelent plus spray ruhára (kullancsriasztó) Protect porozó (moszó rovarok) Protect 3X hatás spray (bugs) Raid levendula spray (mothball)
piperonyl butoxide: Possible human carcinogen	Biolit spray (fly-mosquito) Derivative: Chemotox Bogáncs spray (dog insecticide)

Deltamethrin: Very toxic to aquatic organisms. Possible mutagenic	Biolit spray (roach, ant) Biolit spray (mothball) Biolit plus spay (wasp) Chemotox spray (fly) Chemotox spray (roach, ant) Chemotox DOMOTEX powder (hangya) Mortein Barrier outdoor spray (roach, ant) Protect spray (bugs) Protect New foamspray (bugs) Uni-tox spray scented (fly-mosquito)
Tetramethrin: Possible human carcinogen pyrethroide	Chemotox Bogáncs spray (dog insecticide) Chemotox spray (mothball) Chemotox spray (roach, ant) Protect spray (all flying) Protect „Sure effect” Biztos hatás



Results of the survey

- We had again at last 30-50 media appearance on this subject.
- The two major consumers groups became interested in the issue
- A discussion started with the Hungarian biocide authority on our demands

