



Arsenic in most commonly used pesticide at toxic levels

For Immediate Release Monday 8th January 2018

Regulators aren't testing the real poisons in pesticides a new study in [Toxicology Reports](#) shows. 'Inert' formulants, designed to help a pesticide penetrate the plant, were far more effective at killing than the supposed "active ingredient", glyphosate. These formulants are considered confidential business information and escape testing. High levels of arsenic and other heavy metals were also found.

“Glyphosate-based-herbicides (GBH) like Roundup, are the most used pesticides in the world,” said Fran Murrell of MADGE.

Most GM crops are "Roundup Ready" meaning they are designed to be sprayed with glyphosate and many crops are sprayed with Roundup just before harvest to dry them. This study shows that the pesticides sprayed on our food are far more toxic than we have been led to believe. This research means we need to transition out of poison-based farming.

The discoveries

- Prof. Gilles-Eric Séralini in the University of Caen Normandy, France, and his colleagues Dr. Nicolas Defarge and Dr. Joël Spiroux, have discovered several new findings which shed new light on this topic.
- Glyphosate-based herbicides are shown to contain heavy metals such as arsenic. These are not declared and are normally banned due to their toxicity.
- Tested on plants, herbicide formulants such as POEA are toxic in isolation, while glyphosate alone is not toxic to plants at normal agricultural levels, but apparently only at higher levels.
- Tested on human cells, formulants composed of petroleum residues have a more endocrine disruptive effect and are even highly more toxic than glyphosate.

Prof. Gilles-Eric Séralini stated:

“These results show that the declarations of glyphosate as the active principle for toxicity are scientifically wrong, and that the toxicity assessment is also erroneous: glyphosate is tested alone for long-term health effects at regulatory level but the formulants – which are composed of toxic petroleum residues and arsenic – are not tested over the long term. We call for the immediate transparent and public release of the formulations and above all of any health tests conducted on them. The acceptable levels of glyphosate residues in food and drinks should be divided immediately by a factor of at least 1,000 because of these hidden poisons. Glyphosate-based herbicides should be banned.”

Contact: gilles-eric.seralini@unicaen.fr; phone [+33 6 70 80 20 87](tel:+33670802087).

Australia: Fran Murrell MADGE 0401 407 944