

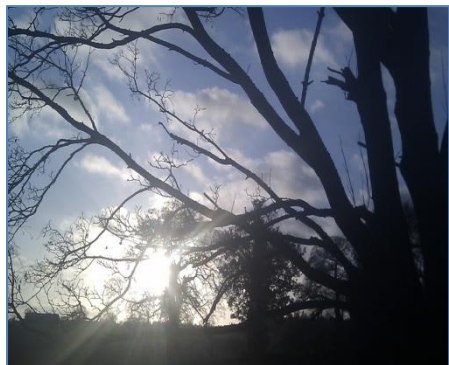


Issue 2: Feb 2014

# University of Hertfordshire Agricultural Substance databases NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second newsletter relating to the University of Hertfordshire's agricultural substance databases. Although it is a bit belated we hope you all have a healthy and prosperous 2014. In this issue we will update you on recent database development activity, global usage and our services and support activities.

## Recent development activity



Whilst the urge to hibernate in this extremely depressing and very wet, bleak UK winter persists we have, in the last few months, added almost 200 new records to the databases for both previously unlisted pesticides and metabolites. These are both new molecules and some historical ones. In many cases there is not a great deal of data available for these substances either because the data is yet to be published or, in the case of the old pesticides, simply does not exist. We are actively seeking data so when we have it so will you. We have continued to update existing records regularly and typically the online version of the database is updated once or twice a month.

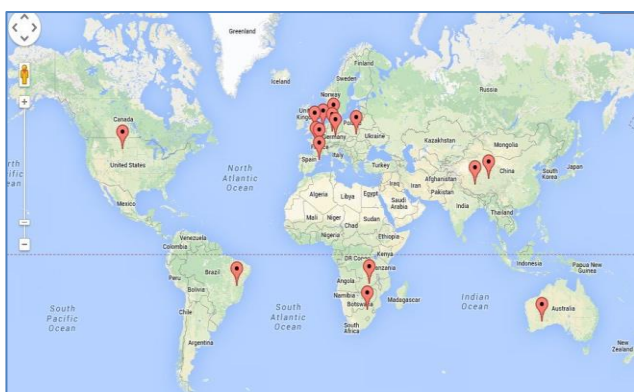
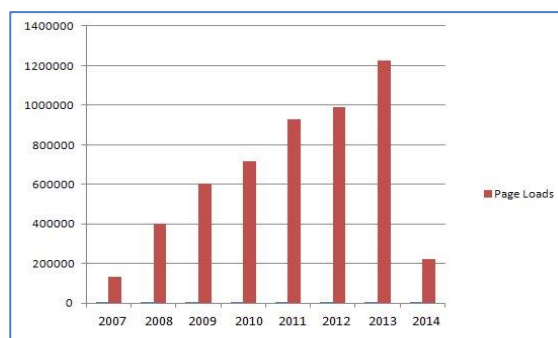
The only recent change has been in the interpretation for beneficial arthropods (listed as 'other arthropod 1 & 2' on the data sheets) parameters. The hazard quotient calculation which is normally used to evaluate risk to beneficial arthropods requires the pesticide application rate to be known. Obviously this is not known to us and until recently we used an application rate of  $1 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$  as a reference but this has severe limitations in such that it is somewhat unrealistic and only permits a comparative guideline. In addition, especially to the lay person, it may have been confusing or misunderstood. Whilst we are limited in what we can do as applications rates are so variable you will see that we now provide an interpretation at three different applications rates ( $1.0$ ,  $0.1$  and  $0.01 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ ). Whilst still not ideal, we hope it will at least ensure that the importance of the application rate in interpreting the ecotoxicological data is more obvious.

We have also done some work on the database user interface. Firstly, in order to streamline the service we provide, ensure that it is of the highest quality and to better use our very limited resources we have had to phase out some of the non-English versions of the pesticides database. In the last few months we have removed the Polish and Italian versions, and the French version is scheduled for removal in the next week or so. The Slovenian version has had a reprieve due to the unrelenting work and support of a friend and colleague in Slovenia who has found some funding to allow us to keep it for now. Regarding our support facilities you will now find various video help files are available on our website. This is a collection of short videos (around 5mins each) that will guide you through the database and how to find more information. You will find this option on the left hand side of the screen.

Unfortunately, we are still experiencing instances when our copyright and IPR have not been respected and so we have had to tighten up our terms and conditions of use. This will have no affect on the majority of users but will help protect us from misuse and make it easier for our legal people to prosecute. Details of our Terms and Conditions of Use can be found on the database home page and a summary can be found on a pop-up link at the bottom of every page. The service that we provide is currently free to all and simple to access and we wish to keep it that way, however misuse is making this more and more difficult.

## Database Usage

We continue to be astonished at the global usage our databases have, especially the PPDB. The plot shows usage of the Pesticide Properties DataBase since its launch in 2007, up to February 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 as the number of page loads. You can see that in January alone of this year we have had over 223,000 pages of data downloaded. Usage appears to have increased significantly over the last few months. It was particular high in Dec 2013 and January 2014 which historically would normally see a drop in usage due to public holidays. We have online tracking software in place which enables us to see usage rates, where users are and, in some instances, by which organisations (via IP address identification). The maps below show a snapshot of global usage mid-morning and late-afternoon UK time.



Snapshot of users mid-morning UK time



Snapshot of users late-afternoon UK time

## Licence fees

Current fees for our user licences changed last July and will remain unchanged until July 2014 when they will be reviewed. Licence fees apply to users wishing to use the database off-line in MS Access format and for users wishing to extract data from our system into their own databases and software applications. It also applies to anyone wishing access to data not published online (e.g. soil degradation and absorption data). Details of our prices can be found in the Goods and Services document on the relevant home pages of each database. If you already have a multi-year agreement in place, we usually give discounts if these are renewed early. Our licence administration process has also changed and we will need you to return a signed licence agreement before we can release the database to you, even if we have agreed not to charge you.

## Contact us:

If you want more information on anything in this newsletter or on any aspect of the databases please contact us. Similarly if we have something wrong or something is missing do please let us know.

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