

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

DATA EVALUATION RECORD

1. Chemical: Glyphosate, S# 103601
2. Test Material: 87.3% ai glyphosate
3. Study Type: Twenty-four hour Pimephales promelas LC₅₀
4. Study ID: EG&G, Bionomics (1975) Chronic Toxicity of Glyphosate to the Fathead Minnow (Pimephales promelas, Rafinesque). (Unpublished study received December 27, 1978, under 524-308; submitted by Monsanto Co., Washington, DC; CDL:097759-B)
5. Reviewed by: Dennis J. McLane
Wildlife Biologist
EEB/HED
Signature: *Dennis J. McLane*
Date: 9-9-85
6. Approved by: Raymond W. Matheny
Supervisory Biologist
EEB/HED
Signature: *Raymond W. Matheny*
Date: 9-9-85
7. Conclusion:

This study can be used for hazard assessment purposes. However, it does not meet the guideline requirements. Using the toxicity categories of Brooks et al. (1973) the acute LC₅₀ of > 87 mg/L would place 87.3 percent - glyphosate into the category of slightly toxic.
8. Recommendation:
N/A
9. Background:

This study was received by RD on December 27, 1978, and reviewed by D. McLane of EEB on August 8, 1979. The present evaluation was initiated as part of the Registration Standard process.
10. Discussion of Individual Tests:
N/A



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11. Materials and Methods:

- a. Test animals: were Pimephales promelas from EEG, Bionomics stock; mean weight is 1.5 g; length and age were not given. Test system The author made the following statement: "A standard 96-hour static bioassay was conducted with 1.5 g fathead minnows at 19 °C using 10 fish in each 15 liter jar." Also, well water at 19 °C was used.
- b. Dose: Static bioassay using nominal concentrations; no solvent used.
- c. Design: Ten fish per level; 7 dose levels plus control (0, 68, 75, 81, 87, 100, 120, and 140 mg/L).
- d. Statistics: (excerpted from citation)

A 24-hour LC₅₀ (95 percent confidence interval) was estimated from a linear regression equation calculated from the conversion of glyphosate concentrations and corresponding percent mortalities into logarithms and probits, respectively.

12. Reported Results: (excerpted from citation)

✓ Based on a static bioassay with 1.5 g fathead minnows, the estimated 24-hour LC₅₀ (95% confidence interval) is 84.9 (72.7 to 99.3) mg/L. An LC₅₀ could not be calculated from observed responses after 96 hours exposure. One hundred percent mortality was observed for fish exposed to nominal concentrations \geq 87 mg/L glyphosate while no mortality was observed among fish exposed to \leq 81 mg/L (Table 2).

Table 2. Percent Mortality Observed For Fathead Minnows (Pimephales promelas) After 24 and 96 Hours Exposure to Various Nominal Concentrations of Glyphosate and Measured pH for Each Concentration at 0 Hour.

Glyphosate (mg/L)	pH	% mortality	
		24 hour	96 hour
140	3.7	100	100
120	3.9	100	100
100	4.0	100	100
87	4.5	80	100
81	5.5	0	0
75	5.6	0	0
68	5.7	0	0
Control	7.0	0	0

13. Study Author's Conclusions/QA Measures:

No mention was made of the quality assurance measures other than the references to acceptable protocols.

14. Reviewer's Discussion and Interpretation of the Study:

a. Test Procedures: The following items did not meet the guideline criteria.

1. Pretest fasting period was not reported.
2. Size of the test vessel and volume of test solution per vessel.
3. Composition of test vessel.
4. Dissolved oxygen (D.O.) content at the beginning and end of the study.
5. Low pH values 5.7 to 3.7.
6. Toxic symptoms were not reported.
7. 96 hour LC₅₀ was not determined.
8. No raw mortality data.
9. The use of aeration was not addressed.

- b. Statistical Analysis: The 24-hour LC₅₀ value was confirmed by the EEB computer program (See attached printout).
- c. Discussion/Results: This study appears to be adequate for hazard assessment if one keeps in mind the lack of reported information and the purpose of the study. Also, the 96-hour LC₅₀ was not provided. However, the study does document the slightly toxic nature of glyphosate.
- d. Adequacy of Study:
1. Classification: Supplemental.
 2. Rationale: The study did not report all the items necessary for validation but more importantly it did not produce a 96-hour LC₅₀.
 3. Repairability: No, a 96-hour duration would not be possible at this point.

15. Completion of One-Liner for Study:

Completed July 19, 1985.

16. CBI Appendix:

N/A

Data Evaluation Record

1. Chemical: Glyphosate
2. Formulation: 93.5% Technical*
3. Citation:

Anonymous, unpublished, Chronic toxicity of glyphosate to the fathead minnow (Pimephales promelas, Rafinesque), Acute Bioassay, EG&G, Bionomics Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory (1975), Submitted by Monsanto Company, St. Louis, Missouri, for Registration No. 524-308, petition numbers 9F2163 and 9H5204, accession number 097759.

4. Reviewed by

Name Dennis J. McLane
Title Biologist
Organization EEB/HED

Signature
Date:

Dennis J. McLane
8-8-79

5. Test Type

Fish Acute LC₅₀

6. The test did comply with the recommended USEPA protocol (1975). At the 87 mg/l level at 96 hours, 100 percent mortality was observed; below that level no mortality occurred. Although a partial mortality did occur at the 87 mg/l level at 24 hours, two or more partial mortality levels are required by the probit method. The binomial method, on the other hand, estimated a value of 85.0651 (81-100 mg/l). This is very similar to the reported results, 84.9 (72.9-99.3) mg/l. Therefore, the 24 hour test is accepted for use as 96 hour - fish LC₅₀ and "core" data.

7. Methods and Materials

A standard 96-hour static bioassay was conducted with 1.5g fathead minnows at 19°C using 10 fish in each 15 liter jar. A 24 hour LC₅₀ (95% percent confidence interval) was estimated from a linear regression equation calculated from the conversion of glyphosate concentrations and corresponding percent mortalities into logarithms and probits, respectively.

No detailed description of the dilution water was available.

8. Reported Results

Based on a static bioassay with 1.5 g fathead minnows, the estimated 24 hour LC₅₀ (95% confidence interval) is 84.9 (72.7-99.5) mg/l.

9. Discussion

The original study was designed to determine a 96-hour LC₅₀, however, 100% mortality occurred at concentrations 87 mg/l glyphosate while no mortality was observed among fish exposed to the next lower level, 81 mg/l or any of the levels below it. The author explains that at the 87 mg/l level, the pH was 4.5 which is dangerously low for the fathead minnow. The pH at the 81 mg/l level was 5.5.

* As per a telephone conversation on May 21, 1979 with Dr. Earl Spurrier of Monsanto Chemical Co.

ICLANEE GLYPHOSATE FATHEAD MINNOWS

CONC.	NUMBER EXPOSED	NUMBER DEAD	PERCENT DEAD	BINOMIAL PROB.(PERCENT)
100	10	10	100	.0976563
87	10	8	80	5.46875
81	10	0	0	.0976563

THE BINOMIAL TEST SHOWS THAT 81 AND 100 CAN BE USED AS STATISTICALLY SOUND CONSERVATIVE 95 PERCENT CONFIDENCE LIMITS, BECAUSE THE ACTUAL CONFIDENCE LEVEL ASSOCIATED WITH THESE LIMITS IS GREATER THAN 95 PERCENT.

AN APPROXIMATE LC50 FOR THIS SET OF DATA IS 85.065

WHEN THERE ARE LESS THAN TWO CONCENTRATIONS AT WHICH THE PERCENT DEAD IS BETWEEN 0 AND 100, NEITHER THE MOVING AVERAGE NOR THE PROBIT METHOD CAN GIVE ANY STATISTICALLY SOUND RESULTS.

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