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New Study shows GM food Allergic Response in Mice

A new peer-reviewed scientific study has reported allergic response in test animals fed on GM food, and MADGE researcher Madeleine Love (0447 762 284) says the evidence suggesting links between GM food and the dramatic increase in food allergy is continuing to mount.

The study[1] was published two weeks ago by the Journal of Agricultural Food Chemistry, and focused on immune response in animals at vulnerable ages – young weaning mice and aged mice (Contact: E Mengheri mengheri@inran.it).

The study found a number of significant differences in the immune cell levels between the GM fed mice and two non-GM control groups.

Ms Love said "Many Australians are aware now that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (6271 2222) does not do any of these sorts of tests before approving GM foods, and the GM companies haven't done any of these sorts of tests either."

"This study was conducted by the National Research Institute for Food Nutrition in Italy, and follows a very recent Austrian study showing reduced fertility in mice fed with food derived from the same GM crop event[2]."

The researchers used Monsanto's GM MON810 corn, approved for human consumption in Australia from the year 2000, but possibly imported from the late 1990's[3].

Increases in particular immune cells (lymphocytes) were noted in the mice, which had been similarly observed in adults with asthma, and in children with untreated food allergy.

Significant increases in proteins involved in allergic and inflammatory responses (cytokines) were also found in the GM fed young weaning mice, and increased levels of these proteins in humans have been associated with gastro-intestinal disorders.

Ms Love finished, "This study has directly linked approved GM food to significantly altered allergy related response in mice, and follows an earlier Australian study which demonstrated that a GM pea protein could cross-prime mice to become allergic to an egg allergen[4]."

MADGE wants GM food removed from supermarket shelves until it has been proven to be safe.

MADGE is not aware of any comment made by Monsanto on this study.

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[1] Intestinal and Peripheral Immune Response to MON810 Maize Ingestion in Weaning and Old Mice. Finamore A, Roselli M, Britti S, Monastra G, Ambra R, Turrini A, Mengheri E; J Agric Food Chem. 2008 Nov 14. [Epub ahead of print] Corresponding Author: Mengheri E mengheri@inran.it telephone +39-06-51494523 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19007233?ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum

[2] Biological effects of transgenic maize NK603xMON810 fed in long term reproduction studies in mice, Forschungsberichte der Sektion IV Band 3/2008; BL Mag. Ulrich Herzog November 2008; A. Velimirov, C. Binter, J. Zentek; ISBN 978-3-902611-24-6; Contact broschuerenservice.bmgfj@bmgfj.gv.at http://bmgfj.cms.apa.at/cms/site/attachments/3/2/9/CH0810/CMS1226492832306/forschungsbericht_3-2008_letztfassung.pdf

[3] FINAL RISK ANALYSIS REPORT, APPLICATION A346, Food produced from insect-protected corn line MON 810 http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/_srcfiles/Application%20A346%20Draft%20IR.pdf

[4] Transgenic Expression of Bean r-Amylase Inhibitor in Peas Results in Altered Structure and Immunogenicity; J. Agric. Food Chem. 2005, 53, 9023-9030 9023; PRESCOTT VE et al