10/02/2022

# Subject │ Minutes of the Fourth Working Groups 2 Meeting of COST Action CA18221: “PEsticide RIsk AssessMent for Amphibians and Reptiles”

1. **Welcome to participants**

The participants (**Annex 1**) were welcomed by the Local Organiser and WG2 Leader, Miguel Carretero.

1. **Adoption of agenda** **and meeting objectives**

The agenda (**Annex 2**) for the meeting was adopted. It is agreed that the order of presentation of the different chapters will be adjusted to the availability of those participating online.

The Action Chair, Manuel Ortiz, presented the meeting objective. This objective consists of progressing in the elaboration of a paper detailing the aspects of amphibian and reptilian biology and ecology which should be considered while characterizing the exposure to pesticides under realistic scenarios.

At a later stage during the meeting, the following definition of the paper objective, suggested by Andreu Rico, is agreed: review the state of art regarding the uncertainties related to pesticide exposure and provide a recommendation on which areas of knowledge can be used for refinement and which require further study. In the case of refinement, we could provide some recommendation on how to proceed, but not to do the refinement itself. In the case no refinement is possible yet, identify research needs.

The paper will serve to fulfil the Action deliverable #2 (Proposal to relate pesticide use to spatial ecology and phenology of wild amphibian and reptilian populations) that, under the revised timeline presented in the Second Progress Report of the Action, should be elaborated during 2022.

1. **Overview of the status of the paper about amphibian and reptile exposure to pesticides in the wild**

The following paper structure was agreed during the 2nd WG2 meeting:

* 1. Introduction. Basic information about herp ecology and how it determines exposure routes and scenarios.
  2. Exposure routes. Description for different taxa and life stages.
  3. (Eco)physiological aspects associated with uptake and absorption.

3.1. Oral exposures.

3.2. Dermal exposures.

* 1. Ecological aspects associated with exposure.

4.1. Distribution at large scale.

4.2. Habitat use and spatial ecology at a fine scale.

4.3. Diet.

4.4. Temporal patterns of activity and phenology.

* 1. Procedural aspects.
  2. How to collect and use the available information.
  3. Data gaps and how to address them.
  4. Concluding remarks.

The sections 3.1, 5 and 6 had no authors assigned (the latter two because it was not considered necessary until sections 1-4 are finished). For the rest of the sections, the responsible authors presented drafts in different degrees of elaboration.

1. **Overview of the status of the paper about amphibian and reptile exposure to pesticides in the wild**

The different sections are presented by their responsible authors. Contents of each section are discussed and suggestions to improve them and to make them fit with the general paper objective are provided.

1. **Strategies for harmonisation of paper sections and their adecuation to the paper objectives**

A working document is elaborated detailing specific actions to be taken within each section. It is agreed that section 5 can include a table in which each parameter is listed along with the relevant information existing for that parameter and the uncertainties associated with the use of such information in high-tier risk assessment.

In order to facilitate access to all information, a shared folder in Google Drive was created to upload all documents.

It is also highlighted that, even if the paper does not attempt to suggest a new risk assessment scheme, some evident flaws of the current scheme that could be encountered during the elaboration of the different sections might also be stressed and eventual solutions proposed.

1. **Definition of further steps and timeline**

The deadline for submitting updated versions of the different sections is March 15th. On April 11th, an online meeting will take place to define further steps. Ideally, the paper should be accepted for publication within the current Grant Period, although this is not a mandatory question.

1. **Closing**

Miguel Carretero highlights the importance of having celebrated a hybrid meeting to which some of the participants have attended face-to-face, as this is the first presential event of the Action after two years. The contribution of all participants is acknowledged.

## LIST OF ANNEXES

**Annex 1 – Attendance List**

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**Annex 2 – Agenda**

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