

**Opinion of the SKLM on pyrrolizidin alkaloids
in honey, bee-keeper products and pollen products.**

On 10/11th april 2003, the commission passed the following opinion
(shortened version)

[...] The existing data base dealing with the content of PAs in honey collected from PA-containing plants (e.g. *Echium* spp. honey or *Senecio* spp. honey) as well as the data base dealing with the exposure of consumers to PAs are judged to be inadequate. Similarly, the data base on the toxicology of the PAs and on their human metabolism is incomplete, so that a final risk evaluation cannot be performed at present.

[...] Particular attention should be paid to those products produced by using the pollen of PA-containing plants. These products are marketed as food supplements and are therefore likely to be consumed in larger amounts.

[...] The main goal of future research should be the careful analytical determination of the PA content of honey and pollen. In addition, there is a need to investigate, how an appropriate choice of bee hive location and of proper procedures for obtaining honey could reduce the PA content of honey to the lowest possible level.

The original version of this opinion can be obtained through the Scientific Office.

Please contact us:

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