

TEN EIGHTY POISON - THE REAL FACTS



FACT: The 50 year use of this indiscriminate toxin is frequently used to justify its continued use, yet after all this time, according to DOC/AHB figures, there is no change in the population density of the "pests" it is supposed to be controlling. Millions of taxpayer dollars per annum can be better spent on safer, environmental and eco-friendly methods rather than the indiscriminate blanket poisoning of NZ.

FACT: Possums can be a carrier of Bovine Tb and prefer to reside near bush margins rather than in dense forest. Research has shown that keeping a 3km band around farmland clear by trapping and bait stations prevents them from encroaching onto pasture and allows the harvesting of possum fur/meat.

MYTH: In soil and water, micro-organisms break 1080 down quickly and harmlessly into salt and vinegar. (And telling children this in regards to a lethal Class A toxin with a pack of potato chips as a prop, should be a criminal offence.) ref. Forest & Bird website.

FACT: One of 1080's breakdown products is highly toxic fluorocitrate. ref. S. Weaver. 1080 remains stable in distilled water and breaks down extremely slowly in low temperatures, ie. In NZ streams in winter, therefore undegraded 1080 can be washed downwards into ground water and water supplies putting humans at risk.

MYTH: Research has shown that there is no danger to people drinking water in areas treated with 1080 – an average-sized person could drink tens of litres of heavily contaminated water with no ill effects. ref. Forest & Bird website.

FACT: There is NO research data available on the chronic effects of 1080 poison on humans, however research undertaken on animals has shown reason for genuine concern. 1080 is a male reproductive toxin and studies have shown links to endocrine disruption. Known to have affected many who have worked with or lived in close proximity to the poison, 1080 accumulates in the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and the unborn foetus. It can cause cardiac irregularities, chronic fatigue, seizures, etc. Classified as a "Class A" poison, it takes 1/500 of an ounce (.) of pure 1080 to kill a 68kg man and, as yet, there is no known effective antidote. Also interesting to note, before a N. Island aerial 1080 drop, a DOC manager at a nearby property disconnected the pipe taking rainwater from his roof to his drinking water supply.

Myth: 1080 controls stoats. (DOC, AHB, Forest & Bird.)

THE TRUTH ABOUT STOATS:

Mustelids demonstrate diet switching as a functional response to changes in the abundance of their primary prey (rodents), to birds. Therefore stoats are likely to have the greatest adverse effect on bird numbers AFTER successful 1080 poison operations. Ref. New Zealand Journal of Zoology, 1998, Vol. 25

Nb. Mustelids prefer to take live prey and rarely scavenge, therefore are at relatively low risk from either secondary or direct poisoning in 1080 rodent/possum operations.

FACT: Each 1080 drop kills many birds, including our endangered native species.



Found poisoned by 1080 are kea, weka, morepork, robins, tom tits, waxeyes, mohua, hawks, native falcon, even our kiwi. The most satisfactory method of pest reduction has already been practiced by DoC and involves the simultaneous trapping of both rats and stoats, NOT 1080.



MYTH: Bird populations are not affected by aerial 1080 poison. They “bounce back.” ref DOC.

FACT: RATS (not birds) BOUNCE BACK

Control of one species may permit increases in the abundance of others, thereby reducing the overall net benefit from pest control. Evidence has been shown that control of introduced possums may increase ship rat abundance in some New Zealand native forests. Mean ship rat abundance indices increased nearly fivefold after possum control and remained high for up to 6 years after the 1994 poisoning.

Ref. NZ Journal of Ecology, Sweetapple/Nugent study.

MYTH: Bounties and markets for possum products do not provide an incentive for killing possums in large enough numbers to have significant conservation benefits.

ref. Forest & Bird website.

FACT: Possum fur is now fetching over \$100 per kilo. (Ave 2008 sheep wool price, \$3-4 per kg.) Skin plus meat can earn a trapper \$6-8 per possum. A unique product, hollow-fibred, lightweight and warm, our possum product manufacturers can't get enough of this valuable resource for their overseas consumers. 1080 poison is wasting this resource, and leaves highly toxic, even TB-infected, carcasses to spread the disease until they eventually rot into the ground.

MYTH: 1080 is a naturally occurring toxin. ref. DOC, AHB, Forest & Bird.

FACT: One of Landcare Research's own scientists was quoted as saying “anyone who likened Compound 1080 to naturally occurring fluoroacetate was stupid.”

Also interesting to note, the naturally occurring (and lethal to both humans and livestock) fluoroacetate from the Ratsbane plant (*Dichapetalum toxicarium*) was used by African natives in the 1800s to poison the wells and water supplies of enemy tribes. ref. R. Eisler.

FACT: Compound 1080 is chemically synthesized at Tull Chemical Co, a single-manned operation in Alabama USA, (the only world producer). Tull's only U.S. customer, the Dept of Ag., is reported to use less than four tablespoons of pure 1080 poison annually in sheep collars - New Zealand uses more than four tonnes. This year, the amount of pure 1080 poison spread in one single operation (which includes the Levin water catchment) is sufficient to kill up to 650,000 people.

FACT: Two internationally recognized research scientists have stated that most, if not all, of DoC's much quoted research is poorly prepared, badly reviewed and in a number of cases the conclusions are not supported by the research findings.
ref. Quinn & Pat Whiting O'Keefe.

FACT: There is no incentive to eliminate the predators that are the biggest threat to our native birds, ie. feral cats, ferrets. If there was, you could then significantly reduce the numbers of people employed in pest control, and reduce the number, and salaries, of the bureaucrats controlling DoC, AHB, & Regional Authorities.

Myth: Tb threatens meat exports. FACT: NZ's bovine Tb rate is well below that of EU countries. Residual poisons are of far more concern to our overseas consumers.

Myth: There have been no human deaths due to 1080 poison. ref. DOC, AHB. Regl. authorities.

FACT: In the U.S. between 1959-69 there were four suicides and at least twelve accidental deaths due to 1080 poison and, for good reason, Compound 1080 is not recommended for use in residential areas or for distribution in places where the public are likely to be exposed. Its use as a rodenticide in the U.S. was disallowed in 1985 for the following three reasons:

- 1. Lack of emergency treatment, namely a viable medical antidote.**
- 2. High acute toxicity to non-target mammals and birds.**
- 3. A significant reduction in populations of non-target organisms and fatalities to endangered species. USEPA 1985. ref. Handbook of Chemical Risk Assessment, Ronald Eisler.**

SUMMARY:

Very little, if any, research has been done into the effects on human (and other animals) of long-term exposure to trace amounts of 1080 or its degradation products. None of the much-heralded NZ research into the use of 1080 covers any aspect except the effectiveness and economics of its use.

Possums were introduced into NZ in the 1800s. For more than a century, they thrived in the NZ bush and cohabitated with our native species. At the height of the possum population, in the 1950s/60s, we had millions of possums, millions of birds and a deafening dawn chorus. Then the NZ government introduced 1080 poison. Since then, aerial drops have increased dramatically. Now, though numbers seen are far fewer, according to DOC/AHB sources there are still same 70 million possums but, sadly, the birdlife has seen a massive marked decrease. The only difference between then and now is fifty years of 1080 poison.



A cruel killer, aerial 1080 poison is senseless. The carnage has to stop! www.stop1080poison.com

All living things in our world are wonderful creations of nature - until it comes to human interference in their natural environment.

And, if the new conditions imposed upon them are favourable, the species will flourish, increasing in number until those in power decide to designate them a "weed" or a "pest."

Man must learn to live in harmony with nature and his environment,
or fight against them at his peril.

For, in every cataclysmic world event to date, Mother Nature has quickly adapted herself to change, to suit whatever has been applied to or taken from her and she will always win – with or without the human race.

If you would like to join the growing number of New Zealanders who share our vision of a poison-free environment, for our children and future generations, please contact us at: info@stop1080poison.com

Stop Ten Eighty Poison & take a S.T.E.P. towards a safer environment.



NZ. Scenic Dream or Silent Nightmare?

www.stop1080poison.com