

Short Communications

Allergic contact dermatitis from the fungicide Rondo-M[®] and the insecticide Alfaron[®]

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Rondo-M[®] (pyrifenoxy/mancozeb, a combination of a pyridine with an organozinc compound) and Alfaron[®] (azamethiphos, an organophosphorus compound) have both been widely used as pesticides for over 10 years. Contact dermatitis has been described only to mancozeb (1–3).

Case Report

A 34-year-old chemical worker presented with a 2-month history of allergic contact dermatitis of his face, lower neck and forearms. It was characterized by an itchy erythema without sharp borders and infiltrated skin lesions. The patient also had allergic conjunctivitis and was sensitive to cat hair. He had been working on the packing line of the insecticide Alfaron[®] for 2 weeks

prior to his visit. The history revealed no other skin diseases or signs of atopy, but 2 months before this episode, he had suffered from a bout of eczema while working on the packing line of the fungicide Rondo-M[®].

The patient was patch tested with the European standard series (Hermal) and with 2% aq. dilutions of Rondo M[®] and Alfaron[®], using Finn Chambers on Scanpor tape, according to the recommendations of the ICDRG. Test sites were examined after 2, 3 and 4 days. The European standard series was negative, while Rondo-M[®] showed a weak positive and Alfaron[®] a strong positive reaction. Patch tests with both pesticides in 5 healthy volunteers were negative. Testing with 2% aq. dilutions of the individual components of Rondo-M[®] showed a positive reaction to mancozeb and no reaction to pyrifenoxy.

Discussion

It is interesting that our patient had not reported any symptoms while working on the packing line of mancozeb for over 6 months, before having any contact with Rondo-M[®]. Contact dermatitis from mancozeb has been described before (1–3). However, no reports of contact dermatitis from azamethiphos could be found in the literature. Especially interesting to us was the possibility of cross-reactivity between both pesticides, which are chemically similar (Figs. 1a, 2). Considering the wide use of these substances and the low frequency of reports of skin reactions, their sensitization potential seems to be low.

References

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a

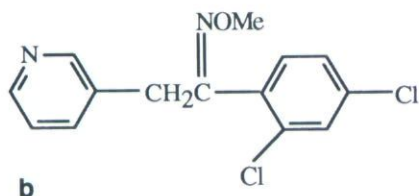


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of (a) mancozeb and (b) pyrifenoxy.

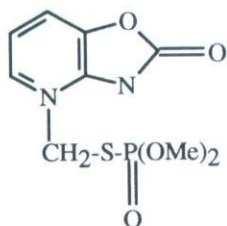


Fig. 2. Chemical structure of azamethiphos

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