

The APVMA is in the hands of the agrochemical corporations

CSIRO admitted that Australia works with global corporations for market access

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is promoted as Australia's 'pre-eminent public scientific research body'. "Although ostensibly publicly funded, CSIRO has, in reality, been encouraged to get 30% of its funding from business, with the CSIRO top management encouraging its staff to go to 40%." According an interview in 1992 with John Stocker, CSIRO's former Chief Executive: "Working with the transnationals makes a lot of sense, in the context of market access. There are very few Australian companies that have developed market access in the United States, in Europe and in Japan, the world's major marketplaces. Yes, we do find that it is often the best strategy to get into bed with these companies."¹ The APVMA was also established at the same time, in 1992.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has not reassessed glyphosate but relied on other regulator's assessments

Instead, the APVMA has considered the IARC paper on Carcinogenicity and Roundup and dismissed it out of hand. "It is not the role of the IARC to consider how a formulated² chemical product is used, or how human exposure can be minimized by following safety directions on a product label... All glyphosate products registered for use in Australia have been through a robust chemical risk assessment."³ Not only did they not reassess glyphosate themselves but they also relied on the reviews by other agencies: Brazil, European Food Safety Authority, the European Chemicals Agency, ECHA, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) (concluded that glyphosate was unlikely to cause cancer in humans). New Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority, (EPA concluded that glyphosate was unlikely to cause cancer in humans.) The US EPA published their draft assessment. **The US EPA committee could not agree on whether or not glyphosate caused cancer.**

Glyphosate final regulatory position Report⁴

APVMA statement: "Glyphosate acts by disrupting the shikimic acid pathway, which is unique to plants, to prevent protein biosynthesis and kill the plant. Would not be likely to have an effect that is harmful to human beings."

Monsanto and the regulators claim that it only affects plants, fungi and BACTERIA. **This statement by the APVMA is wrong: glyphosate poisons humans in the same way as it poisons plants.**

Humans and animals have exactly the same pathway as in plants; mammals can only absorb nutrients via the bacteria in their gut; the gut microbiome. The gut microbiome is the collective genome of trillions of organisms inhabiting our body.⁵ Pesticide scientists and plant scientists have based their assessment of herbicides on complete ignorance of human physiology.

Monsanto has been taken to court for false claims and the judge has allowed the case to go on⁶

Organic Consumers Association and Beyond Pesticides has taken Monsanto to court for false labelling "Monsanto aggressively markets Roundup as 'safe' for humans and animals, despite newer

¹ <http://www.gmwatch.org/latest-listing/1-news-items/13325-csiro-in-bed-with-multinationals>

² The Chief Scientist of APVMA was on the WHO Toxicological Core Assessment Group in 2004 (when glyphosate was assessed as not genotoxic and non-carcinogenic) and will know that EFSA only assesses the active ingredient, not the formulated glyphosates that are claimed by industry to be inert. However, the POEA surfactants are much more toxic to humans than glyphosate alone.

³ <http://apvma.gov.au/node/13891>

⁴ https://apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication/26561-glyphosate-final-regulatory-position-report-final_0.pdf

⁵ <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v500/n7464/abs/nature12506.html>

⁶ <https://www.organicconsumers.org/press/judge-rules-non-profits-can-sue-monsanto-misleading-labeling-popular-herbicide-roundup>

*studies indicating that glyphosate may be carcinogenic and its use may affect human and animal cardiovascular, endocrine, nervous and reproductive systems. **No reasonable consumer seeing the claim on this product that glyphosate targets an enzyme not found 'in people or pets'** would expect that Roundup actually targets an important bacterial enzyme found in humans and animals, affecting the health of their immune system.*

Survey after survey shows that consumers rely on labels to guide their purchases and keep them and their families safe. When corporations mislead on the issue of a product's effect on consumers and their families, they put everyone, but especially young children—in this case, playing in yards and parks—at risk, leaving the public no other recourse than to use the legal system to seek the removal of this misleading information.”

APVMA did not admit that ECHA classified it as being toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects

Like the Head of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, they failed to quote ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) in its entirety. ECHA agreed to “maintain the current harmonised classification of glyphosate as a substance causing serious eye damage and being toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects.”⁷

The coral on the Great Barrier Reef has been destroyed because the Australian Regulators did not read the instructions: Roundup and the systemic neonicotinoid pesticides are highly toxic to aquatic life. Instructions for use state that all water bodies should be protected

“The APVMA reminds users of the importance of following all label instructions”

Instructions for using Roundup Advance AG Herbicide by Monsanto include: “*Protection of Wildlife, Fish, Crustacea and Environment. Do not contaminate dam, river or stream with the product.*”⁸

Clothianidin (Sumitomo Shield a systemic neonicotinoid insecticide) has been granted registration by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (AVMA) for use on very low-lying sugar cane plantations draining into the Great Barrier Reef. In addition to global warming that is why there has been progressive destruction and bleaching of coral.

Instructions: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE, FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND ENVIRONMENT⁹

*DO NOT apply under weather conditions, or from spraying equipment, that may cause spray drift onto nearby or adjacent areas, particularly wetlands, water-bodies or watercourses. **This product is highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates.** DO NOT contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with the chemical or used containers. DO NOT apply when there are aquatic and wetland areas including aquacultural ponds or surface streams and rivers downwind from the application area and within the mandatory no-spray zone shown in table 1.*

Report by the Queensland Government in 2003 on water quality¹⁰

“Regional assessments of coastal water quality condition found that sites in the Burdekin, Mackay/Whitsunday and south-east Queensland regions most commonly experienced poor water quality. Phosphorus and nitrogen were the two indicators contributing to this rating. Metals bioaccumulated in prawns, shellfish and other marine fauna were greatest in south-east Queensland waterways, particularly canals, and occasionally exceeded Australian food quality standards. In central and north Queensland, the persistence of pesticides and herbicides, including a number of banned substances, in sediment, seagrass and some marine mammals is an issue.”

Herbicides: A new threat to the Great Barrier Reef¹¹

⁷ <https://echa.europa.eu/-/glyphosate-not-classified-as-a-carcinogen-by-echa>

⁸ <http://websvr.infopest.com.au/LabelRouter?LabelType=L&ProductCode=70096>

⁹ http://www.sumitomo-chem.com.au/sites/default/files/pdf/labels/shield_label.pdf

¹⁰ <https://web.archive.org/web/20070614223713/http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/register/p01258bs.pdf>

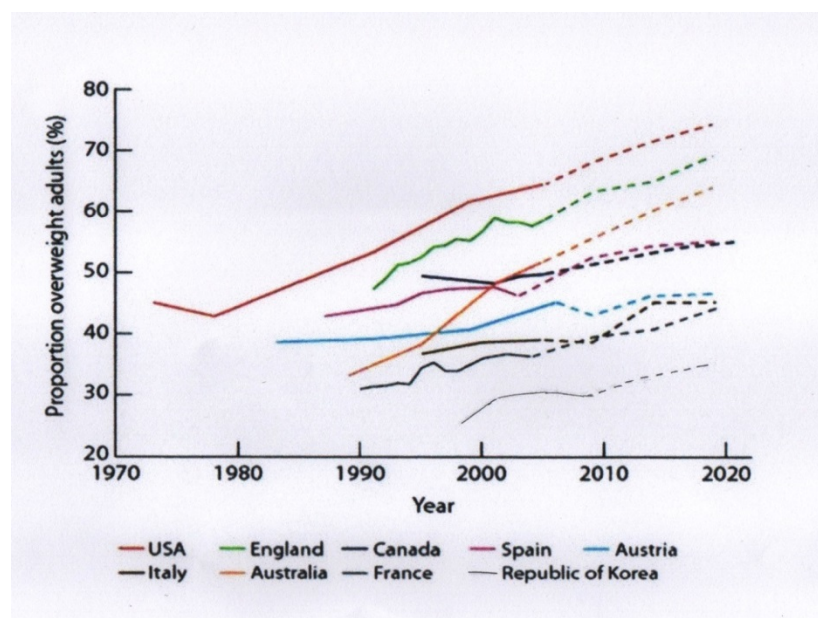
¹¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749109001304>

In 2009, researchers showed runoff of herbicides particularly associated with sugar cane cultivation in the adjacent catchment.

Abstract: The runoff of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) from agricultural lands is a key concern for the health of the iconic Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Relatively low levels of herbicide residues can reduce the productivity of marine plants and corals. However, the risk of these residues to Great Barrier Reef ecosystems has been poorly quantified due to a lack of large-scale datasets. Here we present results of a study tracing pesticide residues from rivers and creeks in three catchment regions to the adjacent marine environment. Several pesticides (mainly herbicides) were detected in both freshwater and coastal marine waters and were attributed to specific land uses in the catchment. Elevated herbicide concentrations were particularly associated with sugar cane cultivation in the adjacent catchment. We demonstrate that herbicides reach the Great Barrier Reef lagoon and may disturb sensitive marine ecosystems already affected by other pressures such as climate change.

Hundreds of Glyphosate-based Herbicides registered in Australia

There are 553 glyphosate products registered in Australia. Glyphosate use on GM crops is accelerating. GM canola was registered in 2003, but bans in NSW and Victoria were lifted in 2008.¹²



Historical and projected overweight rates in OECD countries¹³

Séralini's team finds heavy metals in some chemical formulants of GBH that are in our diet and being sprayed on weeds and on the public

Extract: As with other pesticides, 10–20% of GBH consist of chemical formulants. We previously identified these by mass spectrometry and found them to be mainly families of petroleum-based oxidized molecules, such as POEA, and other contaminants. In this work, we also identified by mass spectrometry the heavy metals arsenic, chromium, cobalt, lead and nickel, which are known to be toxic and endocrine disruptors, as contaminants in 22 pesticides, including 11 G-based ones.¹⁴

¹² <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2012/11/15/factbox-gm-foods-australia>

¹³ Healthy Choices OECD Health Ministerial Meeting, Paris, 7-8 October 2010

<http://www.oecd.org/health/ministerial/46098333.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.gmoseralini.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Defarge-et-al.-TOXREP-2018.pdf>

California-Jury finds in favour of Plaintiff against Monsanto - Nearly three hundred million dollars awarded against Monsanto¹⁵ Monsanto appealed, but the judge rejected the appeal but reduced the award to the plaintiff. Bayer's shares fell dramatically on the stock market.¹⁶

The Monsanto Papers: Court documents of internal records of the Corporation¹⁷

FEDERAL COURT – There are 580 lawsuits [pending against Monsanto Co.](#) in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, filed by people alleging that exposure to Roundup herbicide caused them or their loved ones to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and that Monsanto covered up the risks. There are more than 8,000 other plaintiffs whose trial dates are set.

As part of the discovery process, Monsanto has had to turn over millions of pages of its internal records and communications. These “Monsanto Papers” are contained within the records below. The documents reveal Monsanto-sponsored ghost-writing of articles published in toxicology journals and in the lay media in defence of Monsanto's products. The scientific journal *Critical Reviews in Toxicology (CRT)* published several papers in defence of Roundup. **A review of the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate by four independent expert panels and comparison to the IARC assessment**

“As a result, following the review of the totality of the evidence, the Panels concluded that the data do not support IARC's conclusion that glyphosate is a “probable human carcinogen” and, consistent with previous regulatory assessments, further concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans”. **Evaluation of carcinogenic potential of the herbicide glyphosate, drawing on tumor incidence data from fourteen chronic/carcinogenicity rodent studies** *“There was no evidence of a carcinogenic effect related to glyphosate treatment.”*

Review of genotoxicity studies of glyphosate and glyphosate-based formulations

“Glyphosate and typical GBFs do not appear to present significant genotoxic risk under normal conditions of human or environmental exposures.

Sixteen scientists from “four independent panels” signed their names to the [published work](#), declaring to readers that their conclusions were free of Monsanto's intervention. Underscoring the supposed independence of the work, the [declaration of interest](#) section stated: *“Neither any Monsanto company employees nor any attorneys reviewed any of the Expert Panel's manuscripts prior to submission to the journal.”* It has since become evident that these papers were anything but independent. [Internal Monsanto documents](#) forced into the public spotlight through litigation show that the papers were conceptualized from the outset as a deceptive strategy for Monsanto. One of Monsanto's top scientists not only [reviewed the manuscripts](#) but had a hand in drafting and editing them and paid *Critical Reviews in Toxicology* for the Review. The finished papers were aimed directly at discrediting IARC's classification. In one email a senior Monsanto Scientist Donna Farmer actually admitted that they couldn't say that Roundup wasn't a carcinogen because *“we haven't actually tested it!”*

Weedkiller found in cereals marketed for children in the US and the UK. The information was reported in the *Daily Mail*.¹⁸

Dr Rosemary Mason MB, ChB, FRCA

28 October 2018

¹⁵ <https://www.courthousenews.com/jury-finds-monsanto-liable-in-roundup-cancer-trial/>

¹⁶ <http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/bayer-stock-crashes-after-monsanto-cancer-verdict-upheld-judge-analysts-estimates>

¹⁷ <https://usrtk.org/pesticides/mdl-monsanto-glyphosate-cancer-case-key-documents-analysis/>

¹⁸ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6315209/Revealed-UK-cereals-contain-potentially-harmful-amounts-WEEDKILLER.html>