

**RIFA Environmental Monitoring Field Notes
Environmental Hazards Assessment Program
Environmental Monitoring and Pest Management Branch
Department of Pesticide Regulation
830 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**

Trip Date: August 16-19, 1999

- 1) Met at RIFA Headquarters, Costa Mesa, with the following attendees:
- John Kabashima, UC Cooperative Extension
 - John Blasius, Craig Hanes, Mohammad Azhar, Mohammad I. Azhar, David Quimayousie, Basil Ibewiro, and Luis Huerta, CDFA-Pest Exclusion
 - Cesar Paredes, Russ Maly and Mohammed Zubaidy, CDFA-Pest Detection/Emergency Projects
 - Marilyn Chenault, CDFA-Office of Public Affairs
 - John Ellis and Nick Nisson, Orange CAC office
 - Richard Iizuka and Dennis Vinopal, LA CAC office
 - Larry Shaw, Orange Co. Vector Control
 - Dustin Wiley, Riverside CAC office
 - Jahan Motakef, DPR-ENF
 - Dave Kim and Roger Sava, DPR-EM/PM

Purpose: Tri weekly CDFA and CAC RIFA project meeting.

Highlights:

- a) Exclusion Costa Mesa staff will meet with landscape maintenance & contractors to set up compliance agreement. If landscapers hold stock they need to be treated like a nursery. Meeting with CalTrans. Santa Barbara Co. Half way done with nursery survey, only one find. No finds in Ventura Co.
 - b) Exclusion Palm Desert staff will meet with golf course manager (for movement of grass clipping and aeration pellets) to set up compliance agreement. J. Blasius said golf courses and landscapers will be under compliance agreements. San Bernardino Co., RIFA found at 6 residences in Fontana. Treated with Distance, will do second application with Andro Pro, school by residences is negative. Lighter colored RIFA found (light brown) warned about using color to identify RIFA.
 - c) PDEP Palm Desert – Golf courses and Home owner groups disagree in treatment methods. Problems with irrigation, most places irrigate 1-2 times a day. Reiterated problems with high daytime temperature, bait most effective at night.
 - d) PDEP Costa Mesa – New finds around garden centers (in parking lot, not center). Treated 35 acres in last 2 weeks.
 - e) Orange Co. – had concerns about truck inspections, efficacy and manpower, suggested baiting.
 - f) LA Co. - 6 to 7 sealed trucks per week, mostly frozen chickens, some are loaded on RIFA contaminated pallets. Trucks are free of colonies, just some worker ants on pallets. Azusa has new quarantines proposed for 3 nurseries. No more finds at Valleydale School in Azusa. Southern border under siege 6 new finds in La Mirada.
 - g) J. Kabashima. attended a RIFA conference in Louisiana. Spring and Fall are more effective times to treat. Summertime treatments knock down populations but may not be as effective. We may look at other types of baits besides spam (no one had used it in the south, too expensive). Rohm Polenc presented research that indicates fipronil may be a good tool to control RIFA, low concentrations (.0004%), will kill colony. It is long lasting.
- 2) DPR EM&PM staff scouted for water sampling site (with help from Lane Waldner Orange Co. Environmental Resources), decided on Central Irvine Channel at Jeffery Rd.

- 3) DPR EM&PM staff went to CDFA Palm Desert RIFA office and then to Sunrise Country Club to sample turf after pyriproxyfen bait application.
 - a) Met with Ron Cressy, supervisor Steve Burt Assoc. (landscape contractor for homeowners association). Then met with Ruben Flores (applicator for golf course) took pictures of application rig.
 - b) Took 4 turf samples (13-21 plugs each ~70g), 2 in homeowner area and 2 on fairway. Samples were collected ~ 2-4 hrs after application.
 - c) Could not visually detect any bait granules.
 - d) Saw ants everywhere despite the 106 degree Fahrenheit heat.
 - e) Bitten and stung by RIFA on hands while sampling.
- 4) Next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 1999.

Dkim/RSava 8/17/99