

Gentile et al. (2012, ASB2014-9482) submitted results of the micronucleus assay as a biomarker of genotoxicity in the occupational exposure to agrochemicals in rural workers in Argentina. The authors found significant differences in the frequency of micronuclei between occupationally exposed (20 individuals) and unexposed (10 individuals) workers. However, no conclusion on genotoxicity of glyphosate or other specific pesticides is possible on basis of this study.

Da Silva et al. (2014, ASB2014-9358) performed a genotoxic assessment in tobacco farmers at different crop times. The study sought to determine genotoxic effects in farmers occupationally exposed to agrochemicals and nicotine. A significant increase of micronucleated cells in the off-season group was observed. However, no conclusion on genotoxicity of glyphosate or other specific pesticides is possible on basis of this study.

Benedetti et al. (2013, ASB2014-9279) studied genetic damage in soybeans workers exposed to pesticides. The evaluation was performed with the comet and buccal micronucleus assays. The results of both tests revealed DNA damage in soybean workers. No special pesticide can be identified as cause of the observed effects.

B.6.4.8.8 DNA-Reactivity and carcinogenesis

As noted in the earlier review, ³²P-postlabelling DNA adduct studies in mice did not indicate formation of adducts from glyphosate and questionable evidence of adducts from Roundup GBF administered as a high 600 mg/kg i.p. dose in an unusual dimethylsulfoxide/olive oil vehicle (Peluso et al., 1998, TOX1999-318; Williams et al., 2000, ASB2012-12053). Another earlier reviewed study reported DNA strand breakage in liver and kidneys of mice injected i.p. with glyphosate and Roundup GBF. This study also reported an increase in 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine (8-OHdG) residues in liver DNA from mice injected with glyphosate but not GBF. Increased 8-OHdG was found in kidney DNA from mice injected with GBF but not glyphosate (Bolognesi et al., 1997, Z59299; Williams et al., 2000, ASB2012-12053). No new direct studies of DNA reactivity of glyphosate or GBFs were encountered in publications since 2000. One publication did report on studies in mice to further investigate toxic effects and 8-OHdG levels associated with the routes, vehicles and dose levels employed in earlier ³²P-postlabelling and DNA strand breakage and 8-OHdG studies (Heydens et al., 2008, ASB2012-11845). This publication reported that high i.p. dose levels of GBF induced significant liver and kidney toxicity that were not observed with oral administration. Statistically significant increases in 8-OHdG were not observed in this study under the same conditions as employed by the earlier study. The dimethylsulfoxide/olive oil vehicle dramatically enhanced toxicity of GBF administered by the i.p. route and the toxicity was also observed for formulation components without glyphosate. These results indicated that the effects reported in the earlier studies were associated with high liver and kidney toxicity that was primarily due to the non-glyphosate components of the formulation and which were produced by the i.p. route of exposure to very high dose levels. The enhancement of toxicity by the unusual dimethylsulfoxide/olive oil dosing vehicle further calls into question whether the ³²P-postlabelling finding represented effects associated with unusual toxicity rather than being indicative of adducts formed from glyphosate or glyphosate formulation components.

Carcinogenicity is not a direct endpoint for genotoxicity but it is one of the possible consequences of genotoxicity and, conversely, lack of carcinogenicity in well-conducted experimental studies provides some evidence that a significant genotoxic mode of action is not operating *in vivo*. The earlier review of glyphosate concluded that it was not carcinogenic

in mouse or rat chronic studies and notes that glyphosate was not considered carcinogenic by numerous regulatory agencies and scientific organisations (Williams et al., 2000, ASB2012-12053).

B.6.4.8.9 AMPA and POEA

In addition to glyphosate and GBFs, the earlier review included information on the toxicity and genotoxicity of the major environmental breakdown product of glyphosate, aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA), and what was at that time a common GBF surfactant mixture of polyethoxylated long chain alkylamines synthesized from animal-derived fatty acids (polyethoxylated tallow amine, [REDACTED] ethoxylate, POEA). Today a wide variety of surfactant systems are employed by different companies for different regions and end uses.

In the earlier review, summarised genotoxicity results for AMPA included negative results in the Ames/*Salmonella* bacterial reversion assay, an *in vitro* unscheduled DNA synthesis assay in primary hepatocytes and a mouse bone marrow erythrocyte micronucleus assay (Williams et al., 2000, ASB2012-12053). One publication of AMPA genotoxicity results was observed subsequent to 2000. In this publication analytical grade AMPA was reported to have positive effects in several assays including an alkaline SCGE endpoint in cultured mammalian Hep-2 cells, a chromosome aberration endpoint in cultured human lymphocytes and in a mouse bone marrow erythrocyte micronucleus assay (Manas et al., 2009, ASB2012-11891). Experimental limitations in the conduct of the alkaline SCGE assay included no inclusion of mammalian metabolic activation and no reported control of medium pH even though relatively high concentrations of AMPA acid (2.5-10 mM for 4 hours) were used. Although nucleoid images were analyzed with software rather than visual analysis the methodology doesn't indicate that slides were coded and there may have been a visual judgment component in selection of images for analysis. The positive results were statistically significant increases in tail length, % DNA in tail and tail moment at 4.5 to 7.5 mM AMPA. The human lymphocyte chromosome aberration assay also did not employ an exogenous mammalian metabolic activation system but control of medium pH and blind scoring of slides were reported for this assay. A small increase in chromosome aberrations per 100 metaphases was observed in cells exposed to 1.8 but not 0.9 mM AMPA for 48 hours. The increase was marginally significant ($p < 0.05$) and no statistically significant increases were observed for any specific chromosome aberration category. Although number of cells with aberrations are commonly used to describe results from *in vitro* chromosome aberration assays (OECD473, 1997) these data were not presented. Given the marginal significance, these omissions are a significant limitation in interpreting the results. Positive results were also reported for a mouse micronucleus bone marrow assay in mice administered 2 x 100 mg/kg or 2 x 200 mg/kg i.p at 24 hour intervals. The methodology description did not indicate that slides were coded for analysis in this assay. Results were reported as a statistically significant increase from a negative control value of 3.8/1000 micronucleated erythrocytes to 10.0 and 10.4/1000 micronucleated erythrocytes in the 2 x 100 and 2 x 200 mg/kg dose groups, respectively. These data do not indicate a reasonable dose response and a third dose level was not employed as recommended for this assay (OECD474, 1997). The publication indicates micronucleus scoring results for "erythrocytes" and not polychromatic or immature erythrocytes as would be appropriate for the acute dose protocol employed. Although this might be an inadvertent error in methodology description the term polychromatic erythrocytes was used in the methods section and PCE was used in the results table to describe scoring of PCE/NCE ratio.