

9. Fleas and lice

9.1 Fleas

9.1.1 Fipronil as a systemic insecticide in a rodenticide bait for flea and rat control

In a series of tests with three different concentrations of the insecticide fipronil in a rodenticide bait with bromadiolone for a combined control of the plague flea *Xenopsylla cheopis* and the rodent host *Rattus rattus* it was found that fipronil is an effective insecticide for the purpose. There were, however, some palatability problems with the bait used in the test. For further details see Chapter 13.

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9.2 Lice

9.2.1 Questionnaire investigation on headlice

During the last years there have been increasing problems with headlice among school children and children in child care institutions. In 1998 the Danish Pest Infestation Laboratory initiated a questionnaire investigating headlice in Denmark. The investigation was directed at pharmacies, schools' health care professionals and at parents of children in schools and child care institutions. The purpose of the investigation was to achieve a better knowledge about the number of children infested with headlice, which children are infested, and how information about headlice is given and to whom.

All pharmacies and school health care systems in Denmark received a questionnaire, and parents of children in especially selected schools and child care institutions in Copenhagen and Silkeborg have been asked to participate in the investigation. In all 2,020 questionnaires have been distributed.

The questionnaire investigation about headlice is so far the most comprehensive investigation in Denmark and is expected to be finished in 1999. The investigation is economically supported by a private company.

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