

CBAN Notes on the Seralini Study

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Health Canada's Response to 2012 publication of Seralini study

In 2012 (October 25 <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/gmf-agm/seralini-eng.php>), Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency responded to the Seralini et al. study as published in September 2012 in *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, saying: "The methodology used was inadequately described, the full data set was not presented, and the data that was reported was not presented in a transparent manner. Furthermore, the statistical methods used by the authors to analyse the data were judged to be inappropriate. These limitations make the validity of the study results difficult to determine." At that time the departments stated: "To permit further comprehensive analysis, Health Canada and the CFIA have requested the complete set of raw data from the study authors." The Seralini team has now released their raw data. The departments maintain that, "whenever new information concerning the safety of an authorized product arises, this new data is carefully reviewed." CBAN now calls on these departments to review the data and release a revised opinion of the study.

Approval of NK603 in Canada

NK603 was approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in March 2001 <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plants-with-novel-traits/approved-under-review/decision-documents/dd2002-35/eng/1312565610198/1312565723464> and by Health Canada in April 2001 http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/gmf-agm/appro/roundup_ready_corn_603-mais_603_roundup_ready-eng.php

In 2004, Monsanto scientists published their 90-day feeding trial: Hammond et al. "Results of a 13 week safety assurance study with rats fed grain from glyphosate tolerant corn" (http://www.sourcewatch.org/images/8/87/Hammond_Study_NK603.pdf). They published the study in the same journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology* which would publish, and then retract, the 2-year feeding study from Seralini et al.

NK603 was approved in Europe in 2004.

Commercialization of NK603 in Canada

NK603 was first sold commercially in Canada and the US in 2001.

http://www.monsanto.com/products/documents/safety-summaries/corn_pss_nk603.pdf

Monsanto developed and owns the genetically engineered event NK603 that has been incorporated into many GM corn hybrids currently marketed to farmers in Canada, including:

1. Monsanto's 88017 in the Seminis "Performance Series" Sweetcorn is NK-603 for Roundup Ready tolerance and MON-863 for Rootworm resistance (released on the market for the 2012 growing season).
2. Genuity VT Double PRO (GENVT2P),
3. Herculex 1 (HX1) with Roundup Ready 2- Liberty Link and Roundup Ready
4. YieldGard Corn Borer (YGCB) with Roundup Ready 2.

(<http://www.monsanto.com/products/pages/stacked-product-safety-summaries.aspx>)

NK603 is approved for use in 15 "stacked trait" GM corns.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plants-with-novel-traits/approved-under-review/stacked-traits/eng/1337653008661/1337653513037>

NK603

NK603 is the identifying number for a herbicide-tolerant (Roundup Ready) GM corn event developed by Monsanto and approved in Canada in 2001. NK603 contains two copies of the CP4-EPSPS gene controlled by one of two promoters: the enhanced CaMV 35S promoter or a rice actin promoter. The event was developed through biolistic transformation, i.e. gene gun, using one construct that contained both copies of the herbicide tolerance gene. The transgene CP4-EPSPS from the C4 strain of *Agrobacterium sp.* confers tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's herbicide Roundup.