

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE

Newsletter of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association

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You are Invited!

KCFA Summer BBQ,

Sunday, August 30, 10am to

5:00pm at beautiful Two Steps,

Honaunau Bay, second lot from the corner. Follow the signs.....

KCFA will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring your own beverages and a side dish or chips. Bring your snorkeling gear and your kayak and enjoy the beautiful clear ocean. Parking available at the site!RSVP to Kathy at kathywood@hawaii.rr.com

Successful Kona Coffee Authentication

A new study has been published in the Journal of Food Science July 2009. It details finding a successful and quick method to authenticate Kona coffee. What a benefit this can be for establishing a definitive profile for our geographic origin, and for detecting fraudulent coffee, both here and on the mainland!

Below is part of the Abstract....

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) for Kona Coffee Authentication

Kona coffee, the variety of "Kona typica" grown in the north and south districts of Kona, carries a unique stamp of the region of the Island of Hawaii, U.S. The excellent quality of Kona coffee makes it among the best coffee products in the world.

FTIR spectroscopy integrated with an attenuated total reflectance accessory and multivariate analysis was used for qualitative and

quantitative analysis of ground and brewed Kona coffee, and blends made with Kona coffee.

The calibration set of Kona coffee consisted of 10 different blends of Kona-grown original coffee mixture from 14 different farms in Hawaii and a non-Kona-grown original coffee mixture from 3 different sampling sites in Hawaii. Derivative transformations, mathematical enhancements, and principal components regression were implemented to develop and enhance the calibration model. The calibration model was successfully validated using 9 synthetic blend sets of 100% Kona coffee mixture and its adulterant, 100% non-Kona coffee mixture. There were distinct peak variations of ground and brewed coffee blends in the spectral "fingerprint" region between 800 and 1900 cm. The model was further validated by quantitative analysis of commercial Kona coffee blends.

Results demonstrate that FTIR can be a rapid alternative to authenticate Kona coffee, with only very quick and simple sample preparations.

This excellent research was done by Dr Jun Wang from Molecular Biosciences, Dr Gautz and Dr Li also from MB, Dr Jun from Human Nutrition Food & Animal Science, and Dr Bittenbender from UH.

You can purchase the full article for \$50 from here www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bpl/jfds/2009/00000074/00000005/art00037

Now all we need is the practical application of these techniques so that we can increase protection of our unique Kona coffee.

Mahalo to Hawaii Convention Center

A KCFA member attending a conference at the Convention Center noticed a sign saying "Kona Coffee". She spoke with the concession manager and found out

that the coffee was in fact 10% blend. The concession manager not only immediately changed the label, but KCFA also received an email from Brian Allen, the Director of Food & Beverage, thanking KCFA for pointing out their inadvertent error. Thank YOU, Brian, wish everyone were so responsive to these issues. Now if only we could get REAL 100% Kona coffee into the Convention Center....

Get Connected

By your KCFA webmistress

READ the text and **SEE** photos of our KCFA International Liaison's trip to the ORIGIN Conference in Teurel, Spain. Harold Hoogasian's fascinating report on meeting other like-minded Geographic Origin (GI) folk from all over the world. Kona Coffee was one of two US GIs represented, the other being Idaho Potatoes... Also, check out the Classifieds. A fellow KCFA farmer wants to buy cherry and the list of criteria is available...Still asking for current cherry prices that you are being paid in Kona, for our <WhatIsKonaWorth> page. Send to info@KonaCoffeeFarmers.org, "Subject: Cherry Prices", and we'll post them **anonymously** so we can let fellow KCFA Farmers know where the cherry prices stand. Local processors don't seem to be advertising what they'll pay for your cherry- *hmmm*. Once we get more information, the page will be open only to Members. *Site Stats:* Classifieds had 230 visits in the last month! Farm Searches had 2,209 visits by people who then clicked on 1,509 specific farms. 9 pm on Thursday is when our site is most popular this last month. Want to update your information, put a photo in your Buy Direct Listing? It's very easy and if you need any help, we're here at info@KonaCoffeeFarmers.org.

Mahalo, Cea

Roundup Kills Human Cells

Researchers from France's University of Caen have found that one of Roundup's inert ingredients can kill human cells. The new findings intensify a debate about so-called "inerts", the solvents, preservatives, surfactants and other substances that manufacturers add to pesticides and herbicides.

The research was partly funded by France's Committee for Research and Independent Information on Genetic Engineering, a scientific committee that evaluates risks of genetically modified organisms. One of Roundup's primary uses is on crops that are genetically engineered to be resistant to glyphosate.

Most health studies have focused on the safety of glyphosate, the active ingredient, rather than the **mixture** of ingredients found in Roundup. But the scientists found that Roundup's inert ingredients increased the toxic effect on human cells, even at concentrations much more diluted than those used on farms. One inert ingredient, polyethoxylated tallowamine, POEA, was more deadly to human embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells than the herbicide itself.

POEA was recognized as a common inert ingredient in herbicides in the 1980s, when researchers linked it to a group of poisonings in Japan. Doctors there examined patients who drank Roundup, either intentionally or accidentally, and determined that their sicknesses and deaths were due to POEA, not glyphosate.

The French team, led by Gilles-Eric Seralini, a University of Caen molecular biologist, concluded that inert ingredients in Roundup are not in fact inert, and could cause cell damage and even death at the **residual** levels found on Roundup-treated crops, such as soybeans, alfalfa and corn. They said their results highlight the need for health agencies to reconsider the safety of Roundup, since the toxic effects depend on, and are multiplied by,

other compounds used in the mixtures.

In Argentina, an environmental group petitioned Argentina's Supreme Court, seeking a temporary ban on glyphosate use after scientists reported a high incidence of birth defects and cancers in people living near crop-spraying areas. And in 2008 in Sweden, a scientific team found that exposure is a risk factor for non-Hodgkins lymphoma occurrences.

Monsanto refutes the research and cites the many hundreds of tests that have been done on the active ingredient glyphosate, which is claimed harmless if used as directed. (Read the full article for Monsanto's extensive rebuttal).

However, most research has examined glyphosate alone, rather than combined with Roundup's inert ingredients. Researchers who have studied Roundup formulations have drawn conclusions similar to the Seralini group's. In 2005, University of Pittsburg ecologists added Roundup at the manufacturer's recommended dose to ponds filled with frog and toad tadpoles. When they returned two weeks later, they found that 50 to 100 percent of the populations of several species of tadpoles had been killed.

Inert ingredients are often less scrutinized than active pest-killing ingredients. Federal law classifies all pesticide ingredients that do not kill pests or weeds as inert, but that does not mean they are biologically or toxicologically harmless to things other than pests or weeds. Some inert ingredients potentially affect human health. Many amplify the effects of active ingredients by helping them penetrate clothing, protective equipment and cell membranes, or by increasing their toxicity.

CREDITS

Extracted from an original story by Crystal Gammon of Environmental Health Sciences June 22, 2009 and republished by Scientific American. Read the entire article at www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/roundup-weed-killer-is-toxic-to-human-cells-study-intensifies-debate-over-inert-ingredients

Editorial

In 2003, I was diagnosed with NHL (non-Hodgkins lymphoma), a serious blood cancer with very low survival rates. After three years of chemo, radiation, a bone marrow transplant, and experimental targeted radio-therapy, I am still here and doing well. But, like all others who go through life-threatening cancer, I asked "why me"? The most puzzling aspect was that NHL is linked only to environmental issues such as occur in or around heavy chemical industries, and, unlike most cancers, is significantly increasing. Having never been near or lived near any such industry, and living on a Kona coffee farm that we were diligently turning organic, we could not find a link.

Then, last year, I found a report from Sweden that linked Monsanto's Roundup with increased incidence of NHL. I bookmarked the report, but when I had time to get back to it, it had been removed from the web, rumor says under pressure from chemical giants. This started a train of thought... our farm had been heavily Roundup'ed for many years before we bought it, and for a year when we were absentee owners. Plus, as a long-time vegetarian, I eat a much higher proportion of soy than the average person. And 90% of soy grown in the US is GMO soy, commonly known as "Roundup Ready", where it has been genetically altered to be impervious to Roundup, so that farmers can spray the heck out of their fields to kill weeds without killing the soy.

Was this my link? We cannot prove it, but we will never use Roundup, and never eat any grain or bean that is not organic (ie: cannot be GMO). The Scientific American report should make everyone take a second look at Roundup, before Monsanto is tempted to use its bully pulpit to suppress these reports.

Join or Renew Today!

Find information and join online at www.konacoffeefarmers.org