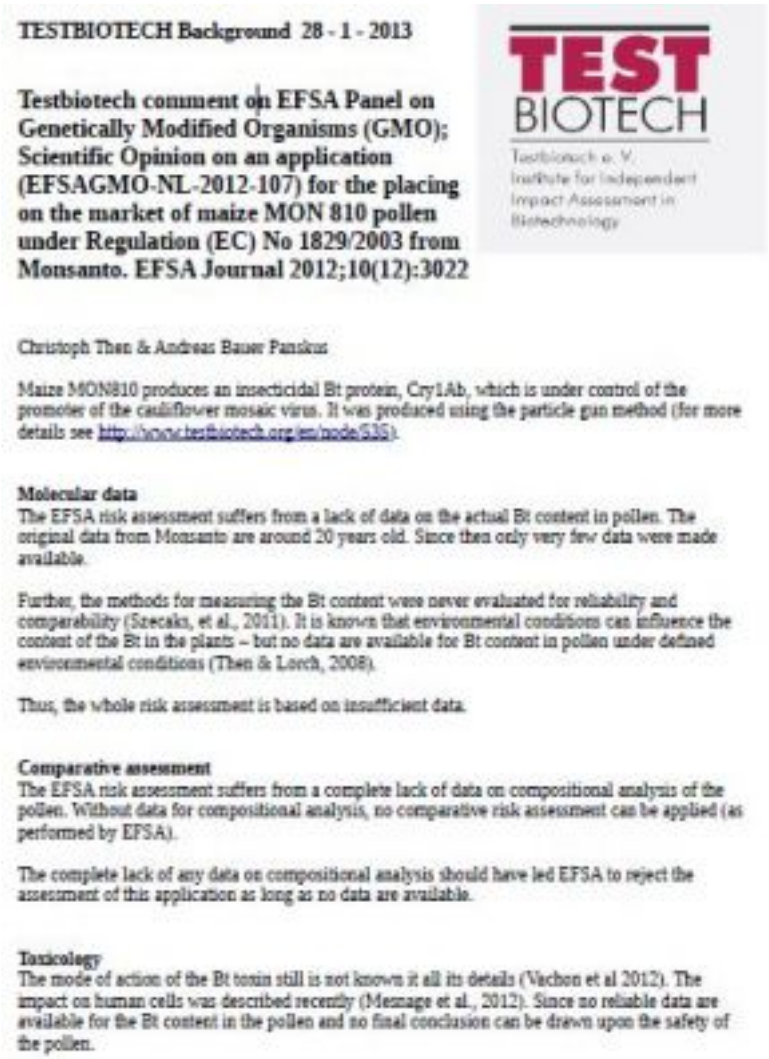
Testbiotech comment on EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO); Scientific Opinion on an application (EFSA GMO-NL-2012-107) for the placing on the market of maize MON 810 pollen under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto

Logo:



TESTBIOTECH Background 28 - 1 - 2013

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TEST BIOTECH
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Maize MON810 produces an insecticidal Bt protein, Cry1Ab, which is under control of the promoter of the cauliflower mosaic virus. It was produced using the particle gun method (for more details see http://www.testbiotech.org/en/node/536).

Molecular data
The EFSA risk assessment suffers from a lack of data on the actual Bt content in pollen. The original data from Monsanto are around 20 years old. Since then only very few data were made available.

Further, the methods for measuring the Bt content were never evaluated for reliability and comparability (Szecaks, et al., 2011). It is known that environmental conditions can influence the content of the Bt in the plants – but no data are available for Bt content in pollen under defined environmental conditions (Then & Lorch, 2008).

Thus, the whole risk assessment is based on insufficient data.

Comparative assessment
The EFSA risk assessment suffers from a complete lack of data on compositional analysis of the pollen. Without data for compositional analysis, no comparative risk assessment can be applied (as performed by EFSA).

The complete lack of any data on compositional analysis should have led EFSA to reject the assessment of this application as long as no data are available.

Toxicology
The mode of action of the Bt toxin still is not known it all its details (Vachon et al 2012). The impact on human cells was described recently (Mesnage et al., 2012). Since no reliable data are available for the Bt content in the pollen and no final conclusion can be drawn upon the safety of the pollen.

Publication year: 2013
File attachments: Attachment Size
TBT Comment _Mon810_pollen.pdf [1] 77.21 KB

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Themen: Agro-Gentechnik [4]
Genetically engineered organisms and agriculture [5]
Projekt: EU-Zulassungen [6]

Source URL: https://www.testbiotech.org/en/content/testbiotech-comment-efsa-panel-genetically-modified-organisms-gmo-scientific-opinion

Links
[1] https://www.testbiotech.org/sites/default/files/TBT%20Comment%20_Mon810_pollen.pdf
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