

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Evans - 343-5634

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DDT FOUND IN PENGUINS AND SEALS FROM ANTARCTIC

Minute amounts of DDT have been found in penguins and seals in the Antarctic--far from any known use of the pesticide, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The pesticide residues, measured in parts per billion, were found in fat and liver of six Adélie penguins and the blubber and liver of crab-eater seals. The specimens were collected in the Antarctic in February 1964 by Dr. William J. Sladen of Johns Hopkins University under a National Science Foundation grant.

Dr. E. H. Dustman, Director of Interior's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at Patuxent, Md., said gas chromatography and thinlayer chromatography analysis methods were used to confirm residue readings made earlier at the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation at Madison.

Dr. Dustman said analyses by Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife chemists confirm the universal distribution of pesticide residues emphasized in the President's Science Advisory Committee report on pesticides issued in May 1963.

The report cited occurrences of pesticides in animals in areas remote from civilization.

Both the Adélie penguin and the crab-eater seal spend their entire lives in the Antarctic feeding mainly on shrimp or occasionally on fish. Dr. Sladen said the specimens were collected in isolated areas where no pesticides have been used.