

# ***Metarhizium anisopliae* strain ESF1 (129056)**

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Summary**

*Metarhizium anisopliae* strain *ESF1* is a fungus used in controlling termites in wooden structures. No adverse effects on humans, pets or the environment are expected when the products are used according to label directions.

### **I. Description of the Active Ingredient**

*Metarhizium anisopliae* strain *ESF1* was initially isolated from an infected insect pest that lives in soil. *Metarhizium anisopliae* is common in the environment, and infects many kinds of insects.

### **II. Use Sites, Target Pests, And Application Methods**

- **Use Sites:** Residential, institutional, and commercial buildings, including schools, greenhouses, and places where food is handled. Outdoor uses include wooden utility poles, fencing, and related outdoor structures.
- **Target pests:** Termites
- **Application Methods:** 1) Spray directly on foraging termites, who bring the fungus back to the nest and infect nestmates; 2) Inject into infested wood through drilled holes.

### **III. Assessing Risks to Human Health**

Based on required toxicity tests, no risks to humans are expected from use of products containing *Metarhizium anisopliae* strain *ESF1*. The fungus does not cause adverse effects in mammals, and cannot grow at mammalian body temperatures. As a precaution, people who apply the termiticide are required to wear eye goggles and a dust mask.

### **IV. Assessing Risks to the Environment**

Risks to the environment are not expected because the pesticide products are used largely indoors, and in only limited areas outdoors. Also, the microbe occurs naturally. The product label tells users not to contaminate water when cleaning the application equipment or disposing of unused product.

### **V. Regulatory Information**

Products containing *Metarhizium anisopliae* strain *ESF1* were initially registered (licensed for sale) in 1993 for use against flies, cockroaches, or termites. As of December 2000, the single registered product with this active ingredient was registered for use against termites.

**Note:** EPA regulations require that registrants show efficacy, as well as safety, of pesticide products that control termites and certain other pests. The registered termiticide product, as well as the earlier products, have met the EPA requirements for efficacy.

## **VI. Producer Information**

**EcoScience Corporation**

10 Alvin Court

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

## **VII. Additional Contact Information**

[Ombudsman, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division](#) (7511P)

Office of Pesticide Programs

Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20460