Maple lactone (2-cyclopenten-1-one, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl) (004049) Fact Sheet

Summary

Maple lactone is used in a cockroach attractant trap placed in dark or humid indoor areas where cockroaches are usually found. Use of these traps is not expected to have adverse health effects on humans or pets.

I. Description of the Active Ingredient

Maple lactone is naturally occurring chemical. It has an odor typical of stale beer, which attracts cockroaches.

II. Use Sites, Target Pests, and Application Methods

- **Use sites:** Indoors in dark or humid areas where cockroaches are usually found, such as near plumbing, under and behind sinks, in corners and cracks, behind kitchen appliances, in bathrooms, around laundry machines.

- **Target pests:** Cockroaches.

- **Application methods:** Maple lactone is prepared in tablet form for use inside a trap to attract cockroaches. The trap can be used for monitoring the numbers of cockroaches in an area, or for controlling them. The tablet is placed inside the trap, which is constructed from a piece of cardboard folded into a "house-like shape." The tablet is placed in the center of the adhesive-coated inside surface. When the attractant lures cockroaches into the trap, they are caught by the adhesive surface. For monitoring, traps are placed at a density of 1-2 traps per 100 sq. ft. For cockroach control, the traps are placed at a density of 3-5 traps per 100 sq. ft.

III. Assessing Risks to Human Health

Whether or not a substance poses a risk to humans or other organisms depends on two factors: how toxic the substance is, and how much of it an organism is exposed to. Therefore, the EPA considers both toxicity and exposure data in determining whether to approve a pesticide for use

Based on reviews of the available toxicology data and other information related to maple lactone, EPA finds that this active ingredient is not likely to produce adverse health effects in humans.

Maple lactone is essentially non-toxic to humans. Furthermore, each attractant tablet is attached securely inside the trap, so that children and pets are not expected to be able to touch or dislodge the tablet.

IV. Assessing Risks to the Environment

No harmful environmental effects are expected because

a. there is virtually no exposure to any species except the cockroach;
b. the traps are approved only for use indoors; and
c. maple lactone is not toxic to any of the organisms tested.

V. Regulatory Information

Maple lactone was initially registered (licensed for sale) in fall, 1998. As of November 1999, EPA had approved one pesticide product--a cockroach trap-- that uses this active ingredient.

VI. Products Directed Against Public Health Pests

EPA defines a public health pest as any organism that can cause or transmit human disease, or can cause human discomfort or injury. Examples include cockroaches, germs, mosquitoes, and rats. To help protect the publics health, EPA requires registrants of products used against public health pests to demonstrate that the products meet specific standards for effectiveness as well as for safety. The product currently registered with maple lactone as the active ingredient for use against cockroaches has met these requirements.

VII. VII. Producer Information

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VIII. Additional Contact Information:

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