

Not consistent with the assumption of T-2 toxin and similar trichothecenes as principal causative agents are the reports of immediate death after spraying of "Yellow Rain". This group of trichothecenes will not cause immediate death unless one would assume that a vehicle, like DMSO¹⁾ was used to facilitate the entrance of trichothecenes into the body. As of the day of writing of this evaluation there have been no reports of finding DMSO in any of the samples of alleged chemical warfare attacks. However, in this context it is worthwhile to mention that most victims have stated that the gas "smelled like garlic" or a similar spice. The literature is replete with descriptions of abnormal odor sensations, like garlic, in more than 50 percent of patients who received DMSO-treatments for a variety of diseases²⁾. A smaller percentage of DMSO-treated patients also experienced nausea, vertigo, and difficulties with vision²⁾.

4.3 Natural Occurrence of Mycotoxins in Southeast Asia

It follows from Appendix IV, that the only mycotoxicoses known to occur naturally in Southeast Asia up to this time are aflatoxicosis and ochratoxicosis. Other mycotoxins may indeed occur, as they do in other countries of the world, but the same rules of probability would have to be applied to Thailand and Southeast Asia as they are applied in other countries. It is well documented that in Canada, for instance, almost all known mycotoxins can be found in food or feed commodities if one looks for them, but at the same time we do not have any reports of epizootic or enzootic occurrences of mycotoxicosis, save a few incidences of trichothecene-toxicosis in animals. These enzootics are observed on a local basis and, while being a serious threat to the livestock industry, they have never reached epizootic proportions, nor have there ever been reports that various forms of life, such as human, animal and plant life, have succumbed to naturally occurring trichothecenes within a time span of up to 10-14 days.

1) DMSO = Dimethylsulfoxyd.

2) Dimethyl-Sulfoxyd: DMSO; Internat. Symp. Nov. 8-19, 1966, Vienna; G. Laudahn and K. Gertich, eds. Saladruck, Berlin, 1966.