

Efficacy of Milorganite® as a Repellent for Domestic Mice

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ABSTRACT: The objective of this study was to determine the potential of Milorganite® as a repellent for the domestic house mouse (*Mus musculus*). Milorganite® is the biosolids by-product left from the activated sludge process from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District. Within a climate controlled building, two triangular enclosures consisting of panels (2.4m x 1.2m x .064m) resulting in 2.6m² floor surface area were secured to a concrete floor and provided with pine shavings and a container of water. Round metal containers (8.3cm x 3.0cm) were each secured to a 10cm x 20cm plastic lid and placed within the three corners of each enclosure. Two, 6-day treatment periods, consisting of three, 48-hour trials were conducted. During each trial, 100g of a pelleted feed was placed within each metal container. Treatments were applied to the plastic tray surrounding each feed container at a rate of 1g Milorganite®, 500mg Milorganite® or 0mg Milorganite®. Ten mature mice were placed within each enclosure for each 6-day treatment period. Consumption of the 100g pelleted feed in each container during each 48-hour trial was utilized to determine repellent potential. Consumption of feed across all trials were similar ($p=.87$) among mice for the control ($49.6g \pm 3.2$), 500mg Milorganite® ($49.7g \pm 2.8$) or 1g Milorganite® ($50.7g \pm 2.7$) treatments. It was also observed that mice would consume Milorganite®. Results of this study indicate Milorganite® was not effective as a repellent for mice.

Key Words: feed, house mouse, Milorganite, repellent

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