

### **Effects of ICON exposure on late pregnancy period of rats**

The aim of this study was to examine the effects of ICON (Lambda-cyhalothrin), a pyrethroid insecticide, on pregnancy outcome of rats when exposed during late pregnancy. ICON was orally administered in three different concentrations (62.5, 83.3, 125 mg/kg body wt/day) for seven consecutive indices were monitored and computed. High dose of ICON significantly prolonged the gestation length and reduced the number of viable pups born. In addition, this dose significantly declined the litter index, gestation index, live birth index and viability index. Both mid and high doses

reduced the pups survival ration and showed growth retardation in surviving pups (in terms of reduction in body weigh, cranial length, cranial diameter, tail length and crania - sacral length ). On the other hand, the low dose had no significant effect on any of the parameters monitored. The stillbirths seen with the high dose can be attributed to embryocidal/foetocidal activity, maternal stress (as reflected by increased adrenal weights and hyper salivation), maternal toxicity (as reflected by reduction in body withts, suppressed food intake, ataxia salivation, exophthalmia, induction of diarrrohea, hypothermia and haemotoxicity), induction of uterine contractions and anti-progesteropgenic activity. The reduction in body weithts and other parameters of pups at birth could be due to suppressed maternal food intake and induction of uterine contractions. It is concluded that ICON exposure during late pregnancy is detrimental to pregnancy outcome of rats and this may be the case with humans as well.