

Dear Editor:

Please find as an attached file a version of our manuscript entitled “Maternal and fetal toxicity of Wistar rats exposed to herbicide metolachlor”, that we are submitting to appreciation by the Editorial Board for possible publication in the Acta Scientiarum Biological Sciences. The experimental protocol followed the Ethical Principles in Animal Research adopted by the Brazilian Society of Science in Laboratory Animals.

The present study investigated for the first time the effects of the herbicide metolachlor on reproductive performance of Wistar adult rats, as well as its teratogenic potential when administered during the period of the organogenesis. The exposure caused reduction in the weight gain of the dams and increase in post-implantation loss rate. Impairment in ossification and in urogenital system of the fetuses was observed. The results demonstrated that exposure of pregnant rats to metolachlor, can lead to signs of general toxicity, late embryonic losses and congenital anomalies.

Finally, the manuscript is interesting for public and scientific community, and contributes to the literature in toxicology of environmental contaminants. This study does not involved human subjects.

The author's warrants that the article is original, does not infringe upon any copyright or other proprietary right of any third party. All of the authors have read and approved the paper and it has not been published previously nor is it being considered by any other peer-reviewed journal. All authors declare that there's no conflict of interest.

Thank you for your attention, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ana Paula', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Ana Paula Alves Favareto