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ALL WEATHER SLUG AND SNAIL BAIT
Metarex Inov contains 40 g/kg metaldehyde



Metarex Inov - Maximum Attractiveness

Bait Points are Irrelevant

Modern molluscicide baits are considered attractive to slugs, however some conjecture exists about their attractiveness to snails. Current recommendations by industry focus only on the number of pellet points, failing to **consider the attractiveness of a pellet and the behaviour of the target.**

Recent research from the UK on slugs reiterated previous findings: as the number of pellets increased over the recommended rate of 30-40 pellets/m², the chance of encounter did not continue to increase in a linear manner (Figure 1 blue dots). Slugs were attracted to the pellets, hence these pellets were true baits and were not encountered in a random manner. Australian research on snails showed a similar response (Figure 1 green columns). Snails were attracted to these pellets (true baits).

Evidence of Pellet Attractiveness

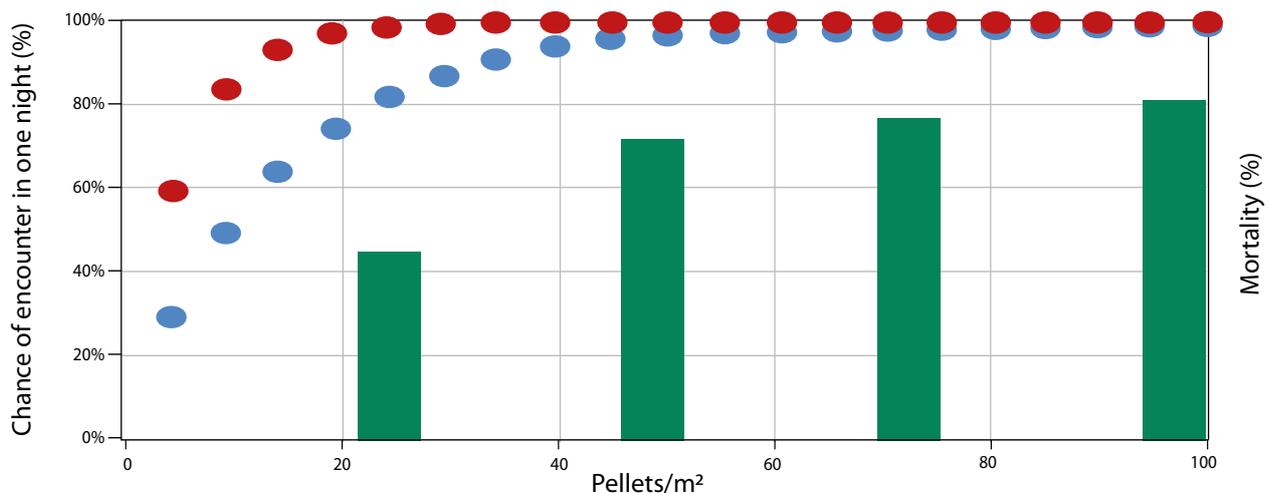
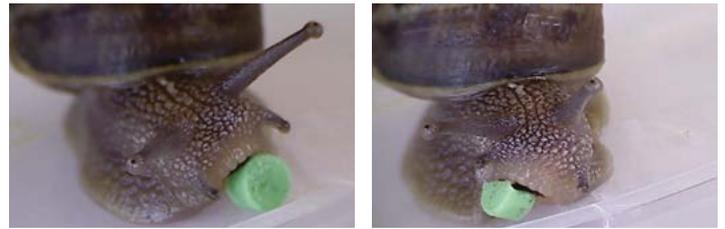


Figure 1. Snail mortality data from SARDI (green columns) approximates encounter responses based on the equation $P = 1 - e^{-2xy/A}$. This model was developed for slugs attracted to bran pellets (blue dots), based on the following parameters:

- Attractiveness (x) 4 cm
- Movement (y) 0.85 m/overnight
- Pellet Area (A) 0.04 m² which is equivalent to 25 pellets/m²

In theory, if the red dots represent an increase in the attractiveness of a pellet for snails and slugs (x = 6 cm), then 4 kg/ha of **Metarex Inov** will ensure 100% encounter in one night.

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The misconception snails are not attracted to baits may in part be due to observations of individual snails that are active, yet not wanting to feed. Often snails move early in the season to rehydrate, not feed. If snails are not in a feeding state, then they will not be attracted to a bait designed to be eaten. When individual snails are in a feeding state, they are attracted to a true bait, such as **Metarex Inov**® (Figure 2). Observations using video cameras ([click here to see video](#)) have shown when snails are actively feeding, they are attracted to baits, with a number of individuals feeding on a single bait. Hence, applying baits prior to rain fronts when snails and slugs are actively feeding, results in individuals being attracted to baits.

When applied at the right time, modern products that contain enhanced attractants, such as **Colzactive**®, increase the probability of encounter to beyond a

chance event (Figure 1 red dots). In theory, a 20% lower number of baits/m² (24 vs 30) with 50% greater attractiveness (6 cm vs 4 cm) ensures a greater probability of encounter (99% vs 87%) to an almost certainty. An attractive product will ensure the target individuals contact a bait and translate to a lethal dose being delivered. Hence **attractiveness**, not a small pellet, is the important factor when considering different products.

The focus on pellet points by some companies manufacturing smaller pellets with lower concentrations of active, only increases the probability of whole pellets being consumed and a sublethal dose being ingested by the target individual (Port 2019). On the other hand, an attractive product such as **Metarex Inov** ensures slugs and snails contact a bait and consume a lethal dose quickly.

Snails are Attracted to Metarex Inov

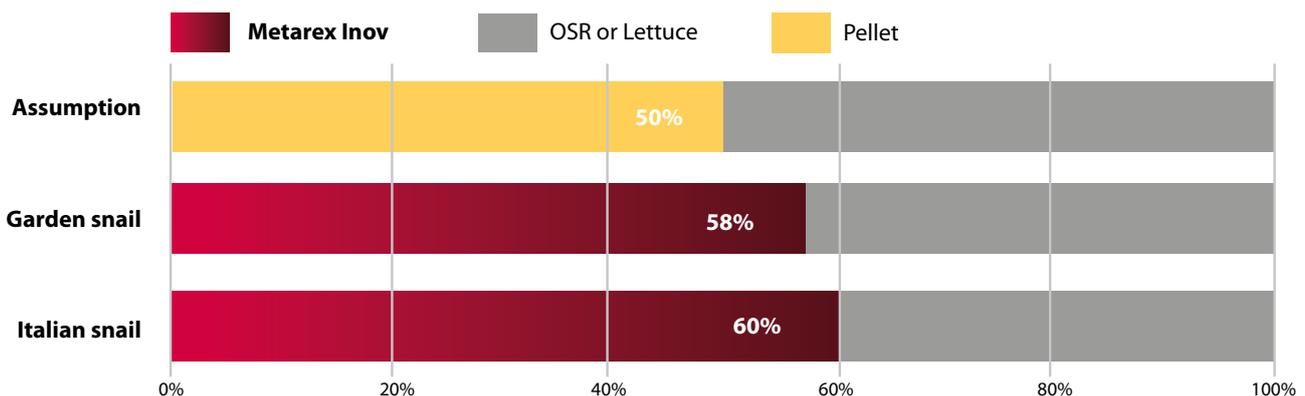


Figure 2. Response of 100 individual snails (two species) in choice tests between a **Metarex Inov** pellet (red bars) and a seedling (grey bars) with first contact scored within 1 hr; values represent percentage of bait contacts. If a pellet (yellow bar) is not attractive, the assumption is an equal number of contacts with pellets and seedlings, that is 50% of individual snails would contact the pellet.

The information provided herein may include extracts from the product label and does not constitute the complete directions for use. READ THE PRODUCT LABEL THOROUGHLY BEFORE OPENING OR USING METAREX INOV

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