COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

URTICA HERBA

SUMMARY REPORT

1. *Urticae herba* (stinging nettle) is the dried plant of *Urtica dioica*.

The pharmacologically and toxicologically relevant components of *Urticae herba* are flavonoids (glycosides of quercetin, kaempferol and isoamnetin, amines (small amounts of histamine, choline, acetylcholine and serotonin, particularly in the stinging hairs) and several organic and inorganic acids (carbonic acid, formic acid, silicic acid, citric acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, oxalic acid, phosphoric acid, quinic acid, succinic acid and others).

2. *Urticae herba* is contained in one veterinary medicinal product containing in total 14 active principles, intended to be used for inducing heat and rut in cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and goats. *Urticae herba* constitutes 10% of this product, which is only prescribed for individual treatment. The doses are 50 g of the product twice a day on two consecutive days for cattle and horses, and 10 to 20 g twice a day on 3 to 4 consecutive days for sheep, goats and pigs.

In veterinary homeopathy the mother tincture prepared according to homeopathic pharmacopoeias by ethanolic extraction of the fresh aerial parts of the plant or the whole plants of *Urtica dioica* or *Urtica urens* (dwarf nettle) and dilutions thereof are intended for use in all food-producing animals. The recommended maximum dose for large animals is 10 ml/animal for parenteral administration. The use follows the principles of homeopathic therapy and animals are diagnosed on basis of the individual pattern of clinical signs. Treatment may be repeated but a fixed dose schedule is not common in homeopathy.

3. In traditional human medicine *Urticae herba* is used as a diuretic and antirheumatic drug. The mother tincture of *Urtica dioica* or *urens* and dilutions thereof are used in human homeopathy.

4. *Urticae herba* is a natural source of food flavouring and is used as herbal tea. The young leaves of *Urticae herba* are also used as a vegetable. *Urticae herba* are part of the feed of many animals.

Conclusions and recommendation

Having considered the criteria laid down by the Committee for the inclusion of substances in Annex II of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 and in particular that:

- *Urticae herba* is considered as a normal component of human food,
- *Urticae herba* is used infrequently and for treatment of individual animals,
- *Urticae herba* is a normal component of the feed of food producing animals;

the Committee considers that there is no need to establish maximum residue limits for *Urticae herba* and recommends its inclusion in Annex II to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 in accordance with the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharmacologically active substance(s)</th>
<th>Animal species</th>
<th>Other provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Urticae herba</em></td>
<td>All food producing species</td>
<td></td>
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