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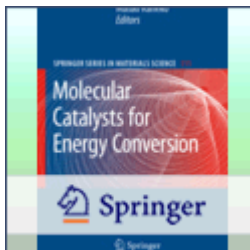
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## Exposure to Organochlorate Pollutants and Lead Weakens Bones

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**A new methodology developed by a researcher of the [University of Granada](#) will permit to determine the toxicological effects caused in animals which have been exposed to organochlorate pollutants and lead analysing their bones.**

This work has studied the effects of lead toxicity in the long term in wild birds populations, determining how this heavy metal causes bone weakening and



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fracture, provoking  
therefore a fall in the  
individual survival of the  
affected species.

This work has been  
carried out by Pedro  
Álvarez Lloret, of the  
Department of  
Mineralogy and  
Petrology of the  
University of Granada, in  
collaboration with the  
University of Georgia  
(USA), the Karolinska  
Institute of Stockholm,  
the Research Institute  
for Hunting Resources  
(CSIC) and the  
Biological Station of  
Doñana (CSIC). The  
research work has been  
supervised by Professor  
Alejandro Rodríguez  
Navarro.

According to Álvarez Lloret, in the light of his work, we can  
conclude that animals' bones are an ideal record to  
elucidate the toxicological effects in the long term produced  
in populations exposed to lead, as part of the lead absorbed  
by the organism accumulates in bones.

The researcher has also worked with polychloro-biphenyl  
(PCB) and TCDD, two organochlorate pollutants used in  
industrial manufacture processes of plastic and insecticides.  
Álvarez Lloret has tested the effects of such substance in  
the bones of wild bird populations of Georgia (USA), for the  
presence of one of such companies, and has found out that  
PCB provokes a higher bone maturity if the affected birds,  
this is, it makes their bones more crystalline, increasing  
their fragility and making them weaker.

The results of this research work have been published in  
the journal 'Environmental Science and Technology', and  
will be published shortly in 'Environmental Pollution' and  
'Toxicology Letters'.

**Published Date:** 27/11/2008