SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

11th Working Group meeting on Matrine and Oxymatrine in food

1st September 2026
13:00-14:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 10 September 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Annika Boye Petersen, Hans-Ulrich Humpf, Katharina Vejdovszky

- Hearing Experts[1]:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

- EFSA

FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Elena Zoe Bogensperger

MESE Unit: Rita Ferreira De Sousa

- Observers:

Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting held on 16th of July 2026, web-conference

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

The minutes of the 10th Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on the 24th of July 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The meeting focused on finalising key sections of the draft scientific opinion, including exposure and occurrence, toxicokinetics, toxicity, genotoxicity, uncertainty and the annexes. The WG agreed on the revised exposure approach and accepted the updated text and annexes. The Opinion was considered ready for Panel review, followed by targeted consultation and planned adoption at the December plenary meeting.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 09th and 10th of November 2026 via web conference.

Location: Webconference

- Working Group Members:
Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Annika Boye Petersen, Hans-Ulrich Humpf
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Benjamin Fischer, Christian Sieke, Laurent Bodin

Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA
FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Elena Zoe Bogensperger

MESE Unit: Rita Ferreira De Sousa, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

- Observers:

Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Katharina Vejdovszky.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

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[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 08th /09th of June 2026, web-conference

The minutes of the 9th Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on the 17th of June 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The meeting focused on reviewing and refining selected sections of the draft scientific opinion, in particular Annex C, the Toxicokinetics section with Laurent Bodin (Contam Panel Member), and the Exposure and Occurrence section. The exposure assessment was also discussed with the Christian Sieke (BfR) who noted that the differences seen between the exposure assessments of the BfR and EFSA are based on different scope and methodology and do not constitute a divergence. He did not identify any methodological flaws in the EFSA exposure assessment. Several updates were made, further amendments were agreed, and the draft opinion will be discussed again at the next Working Group meeting.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 1st and 2nd of September 2026 via web conference.

Location: Webconference

- Working Group Members:

Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky, Hans-Ulrich Humpf

- Hearing Experts[1]:

Benjamin Fischer

Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Elena Zoe Bogensperger

MESE Unit: Rita Ferreira De Sousa, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, Marios Georgiadis

- Observers:

Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes. Olaf Mosbach-Schulz and Marios Georgiadis joined the meeting on the 2nd day (09th June 2026) from 10:30-11:00.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest

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[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

related to the matters discussed in were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 11th of May 2026, web-conference

The minutes of the 8th Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on the 20th of May 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The meeting was focused on reviewing and refining sections of scientific opinion, especially Occurrence and Exposure, the Annexes and the Toxikokinetics section. A series of updates were made and further amendments were agreed. The draft opinion will be tabled for endorsement for a targeted consultation a the next CONTAM Panel Plenary.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 01st and 2nd of September 2026 via web conference.

Location: Webconference

- Working Group Members:

Hans-Ulrich Humpf

- Hearing Experts[1]:

Not Applicable

Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

EFSA:

Feedco Unit: Hans Steinkellner, Elena Zoe Bogensperger

MESE Unit: Rita Ferreira De Sousa, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

- Observers:

Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

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[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food and drinking water. (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG discussed the uncertainty assessment of the matrine and oxymatrine opinion, and in particular the uncertainties for the exposure assessment. Furthermore, the WG discussed methodological decisions, interpretation of data, and preparation for uncertainty quantification. The uncertainties were quantified following an Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) approach. Hans-Ulrich Humpf expressed concerns regarding the appropriateness of the approach applied, but accepted its final outcome. After amendments, the final draft protocol for the Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) and the final draft uncertainty table will be presented at the next WG meeting.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 08th and 9th of June 2026 via web conference.

05th Mai 2026 /06th Mai 2026
13:00-17:00 / 13:00-14:45
MINUTES - Agreed on 13 May 2026

Location: Webconference

- Working Group Members:

Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky, Hans-Ulrich Humpf

- Hearing Experts[1]:

Benjamin Fischer

Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

- EFSA:

Feedco Unit: Hans Steinkellner, Elena Zoe Bogensperger

MESE Unit: Rita Ferreira De Sousa, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, Marios Georgiadis

- Observers:

Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

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[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

IV. Scientific topic for discussion

a. Draft opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG discussed the draft scientific opinion, in particular discussed the sections on toxikokinetics, toxicity, mode of action and genotoxicity section. Comments made by Panel members were addressed. Furthermore, the uncertainty assessment and the exposure assessment was discussed. After amendments, the draft opinion will be presented at the next WG meeting for further discussion.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 11th of May 2026.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

6th Working Group meeting on matrine and oxymatrine in food

08/13 April 2026
13:00-17:00 / 13:00-15:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 17 04 2026

Location: webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky, Hans-Ulrich Humpf
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Benjamin Fischer
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Elena Zoe Bogensperger

MESE Unit[3]: Rita Ferreira De Sousa, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

- Others:

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Benjamin Fischer for the 08th of April.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

3 Rita Ferreira De Sousa participated on the first day of the WG meeting (08 April), Olaf Mosbach-Schulz participated from 2 P.M.-3 P.M. on the 08th of April.

[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

[5] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th WG meeting held on 18-19 February in person

The minutes of the 5th WG meeting were agreed by written procedure on 27th February 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific Opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG discussed updates to the draft Scientific Opinion, focusing on sections on chemistry and analytical methods, occurrence data and exposure assessment, as well as the toxicological sections especially focusing on the Toxicokinetic section. An in-depth presentation on the exposure assessment was given. Following amendments to the different sections of the Opinion, tasks were allocated to the WG members. Furthermore, some sections of the Opinion will be presented for possible endorsement at the 159th CONTAM Plenary meeting on the 21-23 of April 2026. Benjamin Fischer noted that there was no divergence in the outcome of the hazard assessment between the draft EFSA opinion on matrine and oxymatrine and the recent BfR assessment on matrine[6].

VI. Any Other Business

VII. Next meeting

The next (7th) WG meeting will be held on the 5th - 6th of May 13-17:00, CET

[6] https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/plant-alkaloids-in-liquorice-roots-genetic-damage-by-matrine-and-oxymatrine-unlikely.pdf

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

5th Working Group meeting on matrine and oxymatrine in food

18 - 19 February 2026
13:00-18:00 / 09:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 27 Feb 2026

Location: Parma, Italy

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Benjamin Fischer
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Elena Zoe Bogensperger

MESE Unit[3]: Rita Ferreira De Sousa
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Hans-Ulrich Humpf.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

3 Participated from 09:00-11:00 on the second day of the WG meeting (19 February)

[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

[5] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th WG meeting held on 09-10 December via web-conference

The minutes of the 4th WG meeting were agreed by written procedure on the 19th December 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific Opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG discussed updates to the draft Scientific Opinion, focusing on sections on chemistry and analytical methods, occurrence data and exposure assessment, as well as the toxicological sections. Rita Ferreira De Sousa gave an in depth presentation on occurrence, and consumption data. Following amendments to the different sections of the Opinion, tasks were allocated to the WG members.

VI. Any Other Business

VII. Next meeting

The next (6th) WG meeting will be held on 08 April 2026, 13-17 CET and 13 April 13-17 CET.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

4th Working Group meeting on matrine and oxymatrine in food

09 - 10 December 2025
09:00-13:00 / 14:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 19 December 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Hans-Ulrich Humpf, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Benjamin Fischer
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
  Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not Applicable
- EFSA:
  FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair)

  iDATA Unit[3]: Edoardo Carnesecchi, Federica Finelli, Andrea Gissi
- Others:
  Anamarija Romac participated as an ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) contractor (ref. EOI/EFSA/2022/01) for all agenda items

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

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[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

3 Participated from 15:00-16:00 on the second day of the WG meeting (10 December)

[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

[5] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd WG meeting held on 20-21 October via web-conference

The minutes of the 3rd WG meeting were agreed by written procedure on 30 October 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific Opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG discussed updates to the draft Scientific Opinion, focusing on the chemistry and analytical methods, occurrence data and exposure assessment, as well as the toxicological sections. iDATA colleagues from EFSA participated the WG meeting for discussions on the structural similarities between matrine and oxymatrine and other quinolizidine alkaloids. Following amendments to the different sections of the Opinion, tasks were allocated to the WG members.

VI. Any Other Business

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VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 18 Feb 2026, 14-18 CET and 19 Feb 09-16 CET.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

3rd Working Group meeting on matrine and oxymatrine in food

20 - 21 October 2025
13:00-17:00 / 09:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 30 October 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Hans-Ulrich Humpf, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Benjamin Fischer
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
  Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not Applicable
- EFSA:
  FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Elena Bogensperger
- Others:
  Anamarija Romac participated as an ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) contractor (ref. EOI/EFSA/2022/01) for all agenda items

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

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[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd WG meeting held on 1-2 September via web-conference

The minutes of the 2nd WG meeting were agreed by written procedure on 10 September 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific Opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG discussed updates to the draft Scientific Opinion, focusing on the chemistry and analytical methods, occurrence data, and toxicological sections. Following amendments to the structure of the Opinion, tasks were allocated to the WG members.

VI. Any Other Business

The WG discussed the meeting dates in 2026.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9 Dec, 09-13 CET and 10 Dec 13-17 CET, online.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

2nd Working Group meeting on matrine and oxymatrine in food

1 - 2 September 2025
14:00-18:00 / 15:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 10 September 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Hans-Ulrich Humpf, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Benjamin Fischer
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
  Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not Applicable
- EFSA:
  FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair)
- Others:
  Anamarija Romac participated as an ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) contractor (ref. EOI/EFSA/2022/01) for all agenda items

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

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[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific Opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG discussed the availability of occurrence data and reviewed the sections of the draft Scientific Opinion, with particular focus on the toxicological sections. Following amendments to the structure of the Opinion, tasks were allocated to the WG members.

b. Draft Protocol for the risk assessment of matrine and oxymatrine in food

The WG agreed to approve the draft Protocol, subject to potential minor amendments in the sections on exposure assessment.

V. Any Other Business

None

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20 Oct, 13-17 CET and 21 Oct 9-13 CET, online.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

1st Working Group meeting on matrine/oxymatrine in food

16 June 2025
13:00-16:00 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 24 June 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members: Sibel Özden, Nynke Kramer, Hans-Ulrich Humpf, Annika Boye Petersen, Katharina Vejdovszky

- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Piroska Kiss

- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Nataša Mikulić,

- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,[5] EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[5] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on matrine and oxymatrine in food (EFSA-Q-2025-00323)

The WG members discussed the Terms of Reference for this opinion with the representative from the European Commission. The available literature potentially relevant for the mandate was discussed. Afterwards, the draft structure and content of the opinion were discussed and tasks were allocated to the WG members.

V. Any Other Business

- **None**

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1 and 2 September 2025 via web conference.