

Study: Pesticide linked to Alzheimer's

By Robin Lally, EcoWatch

Scientists have known for more than 40 years that the synthetic pesticide DDT is harmful to bird habitats and a threat to the environment.

Now researchers at Rutgers University say exposure to DDT – banned in the U.S. since 1972 but still used as a pesticide in other countries – may also increase the risk and severity of Alzheimer's disease in some people, particularly those over the age of 60.

In a study published online last week in JAMA Neurology, Rutgers scientists discuss their findings in which levels of DDE – the chemical compound left when DDT breaks down – were higher in the blood of late-onset Alzheimer's disease patients compared to those without the disease.

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