

# NEWSLETTER



Plant

Focus:

Harpagophytum

or

Devil's

Claw

Harpagophytum is a perennial herbaceous plant that grows in the Namib desert and steppes.

It is its hook-covered fruit that gives it its nickname of Devil's Claw. The main root grows vertically and deep down. Water and nutrient reserve tubers develop on the secondary roots to enable the plant to withstand drought. These tubers, which can weigh up to 1.5 kg and represent 90% of the plant's weight, are the parts of pharmaceutical and medicinal interest because they contain the compound considered to be responsible for the anti-inflammatory activity: the harpagoside.



It is widely used in the traditional medicine of Southern Africa indigenous peoples to treat liver and kidney disorders, headaches and mainly rheumatism. The plant was imported to Europe in the middle of the 19th century by a German soldier, and its popularity grew among English, Canadian and European herbalists. Today it is marketed as a natural remedy for arthritic diseases.

Studies conducted on animals have shown signs of inhibition of leg oedema, decreased heart rate and anti-arrhythmic activity, anticonvulsant effects have also been shown in tests on rats. The beneficial effects on osteoarthritis and musculoskeletal diseases have been more widely studied in clinical studies.

Gagnier et al. published a study on the efficacy of Harpagophytum preparations for the treatment of musculoskeletal pain through 13 relevant and qualitative scientific publications. The trials consisted of monitoring the evolution of non-specific chronic low back pain for several weeks by comparing the effects of a supplementation of Harpagophytum in powder, aqueous, alcoholic extract or commercial preparation with a placebo or a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

The studies all conclude in favour of Harpagophytum extracts, significantly or not, the signs of pain are reduced compared to placebo and equivalent when using non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Different types of extracts with varying concentrations of harpagoside were used, the strongest effects were observed with an aqueous extract corresponding to a daily dose of 50mg of harpagoside for the treatment of non-specific acute chronic low back pain.



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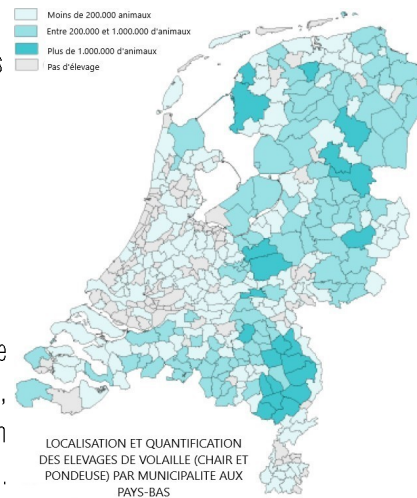
## Country and Production: The Netherlands and the laying hen sector

When we talk about the 'Other country of cheese and tulips', you rightly think of the Netherlands.

This territory in North-Western Europe is 1/13th the size of Metropolitan France and almost 30% of its land lies below sea level. Of the country's total surface area, 44% is used for modern, mechanised agriculture.

In 2019, nearly 80 million poultry were reared, including 33 million layers, and nearly 25 million pullets were put in place. The farms are mainly on remote land protected from the sea, with an average size of between 25,000 and 30,000 head.

In the same year, 8.55 billion eggs were produced by existing hens in the Netherlands for a consumption per capita of 245 eggs. While a very large proportion of egg products are used in the country, more than 50% of egg production is exported to Germany, Belgium and Denmark.



Two issues are emerging in the livestock sector :

### Types of breeding and production methods

The market players are in line with the European directives on the cessation of cage production by 2025. Nearly 85% of production is said to be "alternative" (aviaries, ground, open air...) compared to 50% in France. But breeders are faced with problems of availability and cost of agricultural land.

### Control of phytosanitary inputs and the quality of finished products

The FIPRONIL scandal has alerted and sensitised farmers as well as health and veterinary services to more controls, but above all to turn to viable and healthy alternatives for animals as well as for actors in the sector. A subject that is close to our hearts at EUROTEC'H and which is a priority for all Dutch and European egg producers.

## MiteControl: In commercial farms trials have started

The European MiteControl project is on track, with laboratory and experimental farm trials giving way to commercial farm trials. Currently four farms are testing the combination of Lentypou+ and predator solutions. And three of them have chosen to use the Amelio'r programme to maximise the effects of Lentypou+ by supporting the immune system and maintaining a healthy hepato-renal system, which is essential for the full absorption and effectiveness of Lentypou+.

The project will end in April 2022, be patient!



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Toute notre actualité

