

Mr A Klepsch  
European Commission  
DG-Sanco  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049  
Brussels  
Belgium

10 December 2001

Reference: NFU 146

### **Tahitian Noni Juice (*Morinda citrifolia*)**

Dear Mr Klepsch

The UK Competent Authority (CA) sought comments from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes on the Initial Opinion from the Belgian Competent Authority on the Morinda application under the Novel Food Regulation (EC) 258/97. The UK CA generally agreed with the negative Initial Opinion of the Belgian CA, however the UK raised a number of issues. These are listed below:

1. The UK CA disagreed with the opinion expressed by the Belgian CA that further toxicological tests at much higher doses are required. They agreed with some of the points made by the company concerning the practical difficulties of conducting animal feeding studies with high doses of an individual food ingredient. This was because of the difficulty in interpreting whether any adverse effects observed at high doses were due to nutritional imbalance or the effects of Noni juice.
2. The UK CA agreed with the Belgian CA that further clarification was required on the intended market for this product since it is unclear which sector of the population the product is aimed at, and how much would be consumed.

3. The UK CA was also concerned that the allergy studies were not sufficiently detailed.

The UK CA does not support the marketing of this product until these factors have been addressed, they therefore agree with the Belgian CA that this product should be given a negative opinion pending further information from the applicant, but it does not see a need for additional toxicological studies in animals.

Yours sincerely

Sue Hattersley  
ACNFP Secretariat