

P.21.- The decision support system ARIES

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The Decision Support System ARIES (Animal Remains Identification and Evaluation System) aims at the support of the detection and identification of animal proteins in animal feeds. It provides a full range of animal meal descriptions as developed in Stratfeed, including shell fish and a range of plant parts and minerals that can be confused with animal material. Three different modules for step-wise identification are being developed, and a glossary, a gallery with additional series of images, a range of literature and information on legislation is included. All modules can be entered from the main Contents tab in the Navigator. Bookmarks to the main pages are available as well. The package can be used to support and document the actual identification in common practice and is capable of being used as a training system. ARIES will be made available at first as a stand-alone system (CD-ROM) and depending on the result of a market analysis in second instance as web-based system.

The system provides full information on the protocols, laboratory equipment and chemicals in the module Methods. Basic information on animal materials and on a range of confusing particles is available by browsing in the modules Sample Types and the Gallery. The types of ingredients are classified in different Categories. Each class (animal, non-animal origin) is divided in several groups, which are divided in subgroups when appropriate. In this way a logical structure to the information is given. The procedure for identification starts with the sample under study. Sample information will be collected from different fractions of the sample and from slides. The collected information can be used for browsing in the module Sample Types. This can be a time consuming process. The collected information can also be used in the modules for identification: Text Key, Picture Key or IdentifyIt. These modules assist step-by-step the process of identification. Several additional modules are available for supporting the recognition of particles: Glossary, Literature and Legislation. After reaching a conclusion verification can be achieved by using the Gallery module.

ARIES has been developed in the framework of the STRATFEED project: strategies and methods to detect and quantify mammalian tissues in feedingstuffs, granted by the European Commission under contract G6RD-2000-CT00414. The program package Linnaeus II as produced by ETI, Amsterdam, the Netherlands was used as platform: www.eti.uva.nl.

Copies of ARIES are available from the author.

Keywords

Decision support systems, animal proteins, sedimentation procedure, microscopic detection, identification, training.