

**LIVSMEDELS
VERKET**

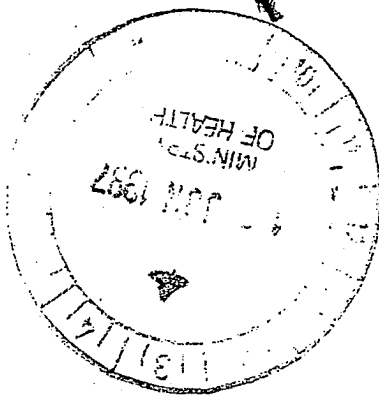
NATIONAL FOOD
ADMINISTRATION

Chemistry division 2
Dr. I Malmheden Yman

30 May, 1997

Ministry of Health
Att Jane McLennan
P.O. Box 5013
Wellington
Nya Zeeland

FILE



Dear Mrs McLennan

Re. Adverse reaction to soy


Please find enclosed some information about adverse reaction to food registered in Sweden during the last years. As can be seen the pea family accounts for about 50% of the cases. The cases with fatal outcome was caused by soy protein (3), peanut protein (1), hazelnut (1) and milk (1). Additional life-threatening reactions have been caused by soya. All children were known to be allergic to peanut, suffering also from asthma. They had, as reported, earlier been able to eat soy containing food, but suddenly experienced the severe reaction.

In cooperation with pediatrics we recommend those with severe allergy to peanut to avoid intake of soy protein. In Sweden we also experience a growing number of young children with allergy to peanut (the same is reported by Sampson H. Brit Med J 1996; 312: 1050). To avoid sensitization we recommend limitations during the third trimester and during lactation for risk families. We also recommend avoidance from peanuts before the age of four for children in high risk families.

According to reports from literature (Chandra RK. Food Allergy: 1992 and beyond. Nutr Research 1992; 12: 93), those infants which experience milk allergy from substituted breast milk formulas should be given casein or whey hydrolysed products instead of soy formulas.

Best regards

Yours sincerely


/Ingrid Malmheden Yman, Ph.D./
Senior chemist

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10 April, 1997

Allergic reactions to food

Suspected causes of reactions reported to NFA have been registered since eight years. During the last three years (since end 1993) this registration has been done in cooperation with medical expertise.

Reactions were reported either directly to NFA for investigation of the food causing unexpected reactions, or to Dr Tony Foucard (expert on pediatric allergy) as part of a study on food allergy in Sweden. All the cases reported to NFA involved unexpected exposure and were investigated for potential contamination or mislabelling of the food.

Figure 1 shows the foods involved in the 61 cases of allergic reactions reported to the Food Administration between January 1994 to the end of March 1997. In these cases the presence of the suspected offending ingredient was confirmed by analysis. In addition to the allergy cases, six persons with coeliac disease have been affected by unexpected gluten in products and three persons suffering from lactose intolerance have experienced malabsorption because of the presence of lactose (milk) in food. All foods registered were compound products.

Figure 2 shows cases of severe and fatal outcome reported from hospitals. During this period, 60 cases were reported, five with fatal outcome (age 10-17 years), 11 considered as life threatening (age 3-16 years) and the residual less severe. As can be seen from the figure more than 70 per cent of the cases were caused by peanut, soy protein, tree nuts and almond*.

Only nine of the cases included in figure 1 and 2 are overlapping.

*Reference:

Foucard T, Edberg U, Malmheden Yman I. Fatal and severe reactions caused by foods (in Swedish). Läkartidningen (J Swed Med Assoc). Submitted 1997.

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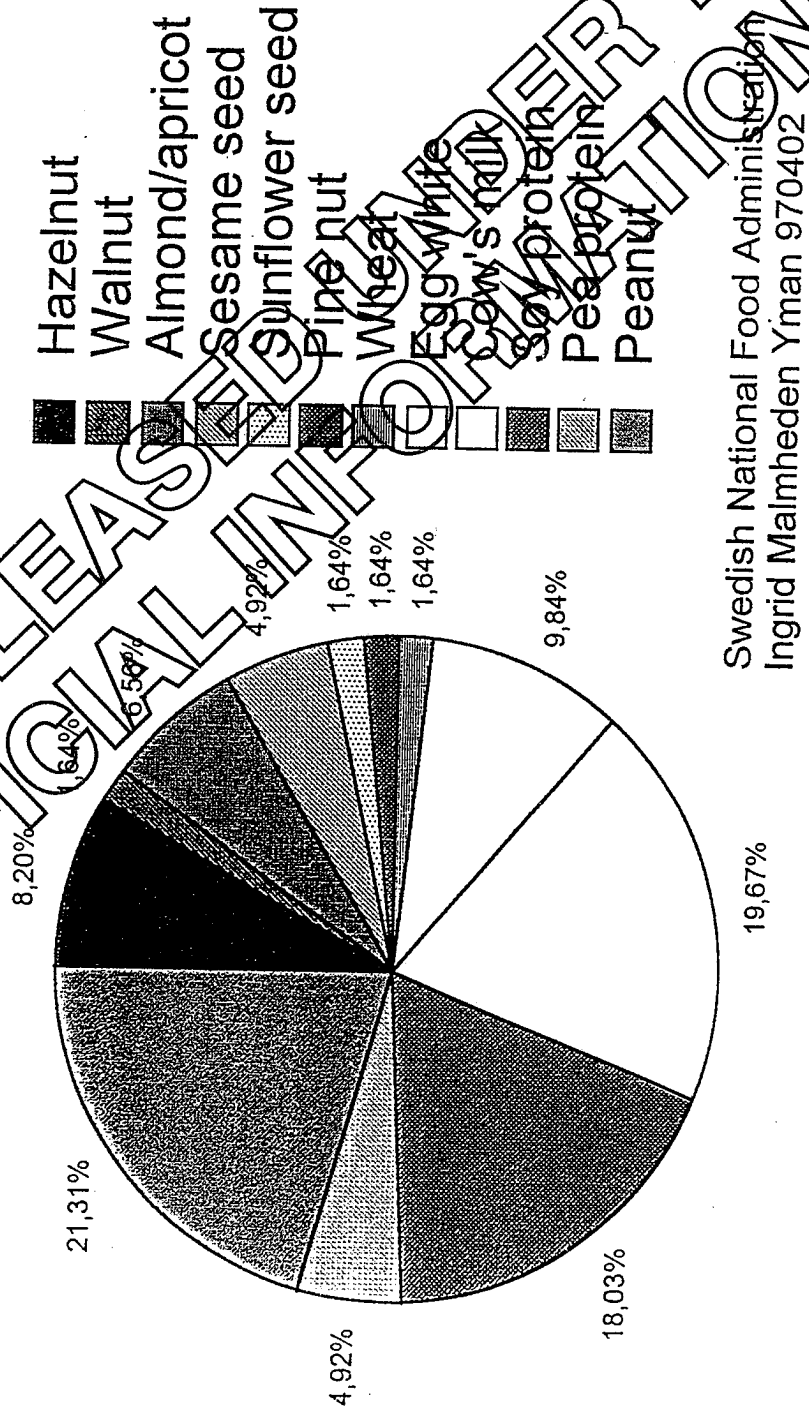
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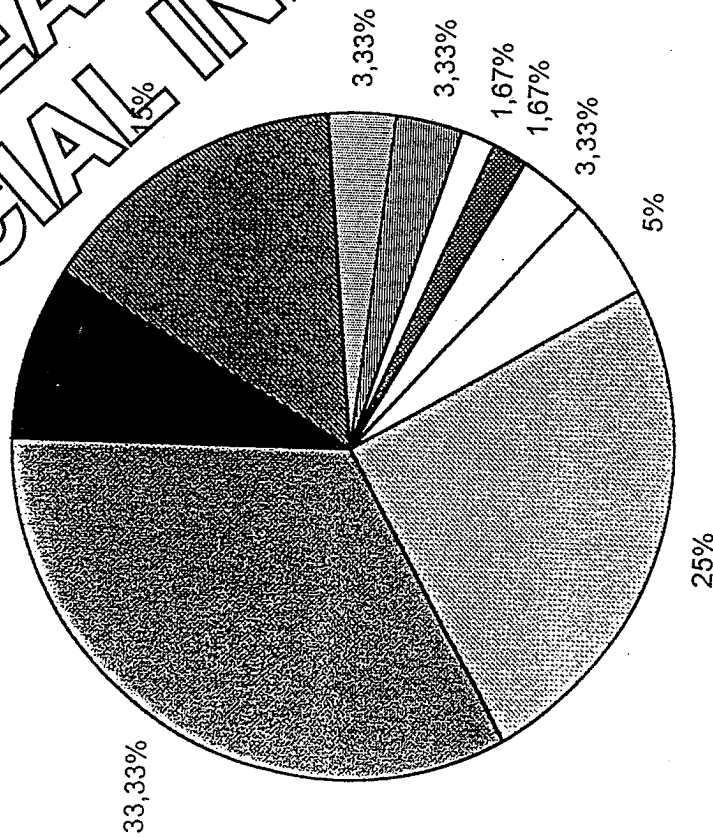
Reactions to unexpected food exposure.
61 cases reported Jan 1994-March 1997



Swedish National Food Administration
Ingrid Malmheden Yman 970402

Fatal or severe reactions to food.
60 reported cases

- Unknown
- Nuts/almond
- Celery
- Wheat/rye
- Fish
- Shellfish
- Egg white
- Cow's milk
- Soy
- Peanut



T Foucard et al 1987

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