

CARP FOOD CONNOISSEUR

This month: Betaine

BAIT EXPLAINED

001 TWO DIFFERENT FORMS

"Principally there are two forms of Betaine that are commercially available to carp anglers, these are Betaine Hydrochloride and Betaine derived from root crops," states CARPology's regular bait boffin, Keith Sykes. "Each form of Betaine needs to be applied to bait in different ways to get the best from them."

002 GENETIC FEEDING LINK

Betaine Hydrochloride also known as Glycine Betaine Hydrochloride, being an amino acid derivative. It can be nutritionally important and is certainly highly stimulatory to carp and other species. Betaine leaks off natural food messages and is detected by the chemosensory receptors of fish. It is present in naturally occurring food and therefore it has a genetic feeding link to carp.

003 MOST COMMON FORM

"Often Betaine sold to anglers is a product derived from beet crops, this was originally developed by Finnish Sugars and the product was called Finnstimm. There are many forms of these beet derived Betaines available today, reveals Sykes."

004 SPICING IT UP

"On its own, Betaine performs to around 40-60% activity, but this activity is enhanced with the inclusion in a premix of amino acids and nucleotides to an activity index of nearly 100%, so it goes without saying the latter is the better form."

005 INCREASE THE UPTAKE

The inclusion of Betaine in baits and commercial fish feeds can increase the overall uptake of food by 50%, which is very significant, and hence why Betaine has grown in popularity within the industries concerned."

006 THE DIFFERENCE

"Betaine Hydrochloride is a pure white anhydrous crystalline powder, whilst beet derived Betaine (powder and liquid forms) tend to be a straw coloured product," concludes Keith. Now for the edges when using the stuff..



NINE TIPS ON USING BETAININE PRODUCTS

All courtesy of bait boffin, Keith Sykes

001 Says Keith: "Betaine Hydrochloride needs to be used at significantly lower levels than beet derived Betaines, and I would suggest a maximum inclusion rate of 1.5gms per pound base mix. Finnstimm products can be used at much higher levels of inclusion."

002 "Liquid Betaine makes a brilliant soak for any bait, but it really does come into its own with pellets, particles and in spod mixes. Use anything from 20 to 50mls per kilo dry mix."

003 "Liquid and beet derived Betaines work well with other sweet tasting products, and I am sure there is a synergistic effect that exists with such products. Try mixing liquid Betaine with low levels of natural sweeteners, such as liquid Talin; a very nice edge."

004 "This might sound strange but one of the best uses of beet derived Betaine is to dust your boilies prior to freezing, or when you take them out of the freezer. I haven't used them on shelf-lives so can't say how well the

same process works."

005 "One deadly use of liquid Betaine is for floater fishing. Soak your Chum Mixers or pellets in the solution (atomise in a plastic bag and keep on adding until fluffy). The attraction is totally water-soluble and is a definitive edge, particularly where they might have become wary."

006 "I love to use Betaine powder in my pastes, and I tend to actually use liquid Betaine as the solution to make the paste with."

Remember in this situation you are only using a highly enhanced single hookbait with incredible leakage."

007 "Powdered Betaine can be blended with many other natural additives, such as yeast powder, liver powder, GLME, crustacean extracts, Spirulina and of course fishmeals. Again, they all work in harmony, if you use just one product with the Betaine then use at a rate of fifty-fifty to start with."

008 "Betaine HC1 is

perfect for dusting single hookbaits or pop-ups, simply roll the bait around in the pot prior to casting out. This is the only way you can use elevated levels of Betaine HCl."

009 "If you are stalking or margin fishing and have access to a cupping pole, then a combination of loose feed that has been soaked in liquid Betaine and put in your spots for priming can be topped up with liquid Betaine over the primed areas. This is another very effective edge."