INTRODUCTION

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Insecticides occupy a rather unique position among the many chemicals that man encounters daily. They are deliberately added to the environment for the purpose of killing or damaging some forms of life. However, most of these chemicals are not highly selective but are generally toxic to many non–target species (Murphy *et al.*, 1980). The extensive use of insecticides to control agricultural pests has caused great concern because of the possible effects of these compounds on human beings as well as wild and domestic animals (Ezzat *et al.*, 1991). Insecticides contamination resulting from agricultural practices for insect control, limit the safe use of these products, the main problems that result are clinical and sub-clinical effects leading to loss in animal performance or in residue contamination of animal products which may later be consumed by humans (Cerôn *et al.*, 1995).

In Egypt, as in many other countries, the continuous use of insecticides became an ever increasing problem that takes part in the environmental pollution. In Egypt alone, consumes 1-2 % of the world wide production of insecticides (amr,1990) . Insecticides may have persistent occurrence in the environment and / or accumulation may take place in different tissues of animals (Eto *et al.*, 1980).

Propoxur is a carbamate insecticide. It is one of the chemicals that have, to a large extent, replaced DDT in the control of black flies and mosquitoes (Mc-Ewen and Stephenson, 1979). It is a non–systemic insecticide which is used against mosquitoes in outdoor areas, for flies in agricultural settings, for fleas and ticks on pets, as an acaricide, on lawns and

turf and for ants, on flowering plants, and private dwellings and public buildings. It is effective against cockroaches, aphids and leafhoppers. Agricultural applications include can, cocoa, fruit, grapes, maize, rice, vegetables, cotton, lucerne, forestry and ornamentals (Baron *et al.*, 1991).

Propoxur is very highly to highly toxic to many bird species, but its toxicity varies by the species (Kuhr and Dorough, 1976).