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Relationships between the abnormalities of the male reproductive organs and the accumulation of phenol compounds in the striped field mouse, *Apodemus agrarius*, inhabiting Korea

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A study was conducted to assess the relationships between the abnormalities of the male reproductive organs in the striped field mice and the accumulation of the endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Most of the mice collected at 3 rural areas in Korea were contaminated with phenol (bisphenol A, 4t-octylphenol and nonylphenol) or organotin (MBT, DBT and TBT) compounds. Fourteen to 42% of the mice collected at each area had abnormally shrunken reproductive organs, and some of them were contaminated with high level of the phenol compounds. Moreover, all of the shrunken reproductive organs were damaged in the histological structure, and the damages were observed also from several mice accumulating high level of phenol compounds even though they had enlarged reproductive organs. Collectively, it is suggested that there might be some relationships between the abnormalities of the reproductive organs and the accumulation of the phenol compounds in the mice.