



## Stressed Plants 'Produce Aspirin'

Plants facing stressful conditions like drought produce their own aspirin-like chemical, US researchers say. The chemicals are produced as a gas to boost the plant's biochemical defences, say scientists from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado. They suggest that monitoring this could give farmers early warning of possible crop failures. However, they also say the chemicals could affect pollution levels by combining with industrial gases.

Thomas Karl, who led the study, said the chemical triggers "the formation of proteins that boost their biochemical defences and reduce injury". "Our measurements show that significant amounts of the chemical can be detected in the atmosphere as plants respond to drought, unseasonable temperatures, or other stresses." Mr Karl said the chemical - methyl salicylate - could act as a "warning signal" allowing farmers to take action against pests much sooner.

## Hurdler Fani Halkia appears before Greek prosecutor over doping

**ATHENS** — Greek hurdler Fani Halkia appeared Monday before a prosecutor investigating the doping case that led to her expulsion from the Beijing Olympics, and insisted she did not intentionally use performance-enhancing drugs.

Halkia, the 2004 Olympic 400-metre hurdles gold medallist, tested positive for the steroid methyltrienolone on Aug. 16.

She told reporters that Athens prosecutor Costas Simitzoglou gave her until Friday to prepare her testimony, and she maintained she had not deliberately cheated.

"That is the one thing that is for sure," Halkia said. "I know that better than anyone."

The 29-year-old Halkia was the 15th Greek athlete to be caught this year taking the banned steroid.

Simitzoglou is heading an investigation into whether Halkia, her coach George Panagiotopoulos and sprinter Tassos Gousis - another of the 15 - broke Greek law by obtaining and using the steroid. All three have denied any wrongdoing.



Greece's national Olympic committee head, Minos Kyriakou, testified before Simitzoglou this month.

Last month, the International Olympic Committee filed a lawsuit against Panagiotopoulos, requesting his prosecution in Greece.

The 15 athletes who tested positive for methyltrienolone include 11 members of the Greek weightlifting team, who have been charged with illegal use of toxic substances - a misdemeanour.

## Greek-born elderly woman stabs husband to end suffering

AN elderly woman who stabbed her ailing husband with a kitchen knife in a nursing home said she couldn't stand seeing him suffer.

Anastasia Nestorowycz, 76, stabbed her 82-year-old husband in the stomach then stabbed herself in the bathroom of his nursing home unit in Thornbury, Victoria.

The Supreme Court yesterday heard Mrs Nestorowycz, of Thornbury, stabbed her husband Paul Nestorowycz - who suffered dementia, diabetes and used a wheelchair - once in the stomach, then stabbed herself in the stomach and cut her wrist on June 14 last year.

She pleaded guilty yesterday to attempting to murder her husband of 35 years.

The couple were found covered in blood by nursing home staff and taken with serious injuries to the hospital.

The court heard Mrs Nestorowycz walked every day to the nursing home to see her sick husband, taking him food, clothing and spending time with him.

But in the weeks before the stabbing, Mrs Nestorowycz, who had been seeking treatment for depression, had become paranoid her husband was being mistreated, the court

heard.

Defence lawyer David McKenzie told the court Mrs Nestorowycz believed staff were neglecting him, not feeding him properly and stealing his clothes.

**The Greek-born woman** could not speak English, struggled to communicate her concerns and began to slip into a black world, he said.

Prosecutor Chris Ryan, SC, said police had found two notes written in Greek by Mrs Nestorowycz begging for forgiveness.

A note found in her husband's nursing home room read: "Forgive me for the sin, wrongdoing, infraction. I am very tired."

Another read: "Everything is bad. Whatever I have done I have done it because of tiredness."

**Family friend Pamela Manikas** told the court Mrs Nestorowycz had exhausted herself looking after her husband and their 32-year-old son.

She said the elderly woman was once full of laughter but had become frail, exhausted and sad in the weeks before the incident.

The court heard psychological assessments of Mrs Nestorowycz detailed that she suffered a major depressive illness.

She was arrested in October last

year and had not seen her husband since.

He remains in a nursing home.

Justice David Harper will sentence Mrs Nestorowycz on Monday.

*Article from the Australian*

## Pit bull kills pensioner, dog's owner arrested

A 28-year-old woman from Komotini, northeastern Greece, was arrested yesterday after her pit bull terrier bit an elderly woman in the neck, resulting in the 80-year-old's death.

The victim had been visiting relatives and was attacked by the dog as she left their house. The animal's owner eventually pulled the dog off the 80-year-old but by that time the pet had already seriously injured the pensioner. She was taken to the Komotini hospital but died soon afterward.

The 28-year-old was arrested on a charge of manslaughter through negligence. Police did not give any details of what happened to the dog.

Officers said that a neighbor told them that the pit bull had attacked her child last year, causing the youngster to suffer a serious leg injury.

## Dark Galaxy Discovered

A group of astronomers led by Marla Geha, an assistant professor of astronomy at Yale University, discovered the least luminous galaxy known, which is surprisingly massive. Called Segue 1, the galaxy is one of about two dozen small satellite galaxies orbiting our own Milky Way galaxy. Although it contains only a few hundred stars, yet it has a relatively large mass.



## Top 5 Greek owned shipping companies:

Rank	Owners	Company	No. of Ships
1.	George Economou	Cardiff Marine	90
2.	Capt. Panagiotis	N. Tsakos Tsakos Group	74
3.	Peter Georgiopoulos	Genmar Aegean Genco	73
4.	Victor Retsis	Enterprise Shipping & Trading	63
5.	Panos Laskaridis	Laskaridis Shipping	61