

# **SCIENCE DAILY**

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## **Poisoned medicine leaving deadly trail**

SHANGHAI, China, May 6 (UPI) -- Investigators have found that a deadly trail of poisonous medicine that recently reached Panama has roots in a syrupy chemical created inside China's borders.

Global counterfeiters have used sweet-tasting diethylene glycol as an inexpensive substitute in medicines during the past few years, The New York Times reported Sunday. The toxic syrup originated in China's Yangtze Delta.

The linking of China to the poisoning cases, that now includes 100 confirmed deaths in Panama, comes after the Asian nation was linked to a contaminated pet food scare in the United States.

Previous outbreaks involving the deadly diethylene glycol -- an industrial solvent and ingredient in some anti-freeze -- previously occurred in the United States 70 years ago, when more than 100 people died, and a decade ago in Haiti that resulted in 88 deaths.

The Times said that while the problem has been tackled in some countries, experts have called for a global solution to the expanding health problem.

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