

# NEKTON®-PLUS

Carbohydrates - Protein - Fats - Vitamins - Minerals  
In water-soluble powder form

Ready-made diet for humming, sunbirds and small lorikeets

As you know, keeping and rearing humming and sunbirds has often proved difficult for the owner, mainly because of the problems in finding just the right food. NEKTAR-PLUS allows you to forget all these troubles and provides you with a time-saving and problem-free diet.

The composition of the various components of NEKTAR-PLUS is primarily based on the high demands made by humming birds but has also taken the special needs of the sensitive sunbirds into consideration.

NEKTAR-PLUS contains all the vital elements needed by the organism of these birds:

**Carbohydrates**, whose composition corresponds to that of nectar, the favourite food of humming birds and sun birds, thus providing fuel for a bird's basal metabolism.

**Protein**, the essential nourishment to keep your bird alive, made up of 18 different amino acids and by means of NEKTAR-PLUS already in hydrolytic form. This is made necessary because of the unusual form of the stomach in humming birds and other nectar-feeding birds. As their liquid nourishment mainly passes the stomach without the nutrients being extracted, it is highly important that the dietary protein is at least assimilated by the small intestine to enable the bird's organism to produce its own protein. A significant factor of NEKTAR-PLUS is that the bulk of the protein contained is already in its digested form - a well-balanced composition of 18 indispensable amino acids in L form - together with a small amount of sophisticated protein. NEKTAR-PLUS also contains ground flower pollen as a further protein component.

**Fats**, only small quantities of fat are to be found in NEKTAR-PLUS as the high percentage of carbohydrates enables the birds to produce their own fat. The tiny amount of fat in NEKTAR-PLUS consists mainly of vital fatty acids and is there to prevent any possible deficiencies.

**Vitamins**, essential organic substances, are a further important factor in NEKTAR-PLUS. They have been especially put together to cover the needs of nectar-feeding birds. There is a very high share of the vitamin B complex, for example, because the larger the proportion of carbohydrates the more vitamin B<sub>1</sub> is needed; vitamin B<sub>6</sub> contributes to the anabolism of the amino acids and B<sub>12</sub> is responsible for growth and plumage. NEKTAR-PLUS contains a total of 13 vitamins plus provitamins.

**Minerals** (macro and trace elements) are, in general, essential substances and must therefore be a part of a bird's daily nourishment. Even when insufficiently provided, the bird's organism constantly excretes the mineral elements, which makes a regular supply of these effective substances absolutely necessary to avoid any damage to the organism. NEKTAR-PLUS has all the essential minerals vital for important anabolic processes and in just the right composition and proportion.

All the nutrients (carbohydrates, protein, fats) and effective substances (vitamins, minerals) have been formulated to provide a complete health and life-maintaining diet.

NEKTAR-PLUS is a substitute nectar solution in dried form. Private humming bird and sunbird keepers, zoological gardens and bird parks have used it successfully for many years alike.

## PREPARING

NEKTAR-PLUS offers you an extremely simple method of giving your bird an excellent substitute for nectar.

Dosage:

In Gram

13g NEKTAR-PLUS to 100ml lukewarm (30°C) water

In Millilitre

18ml NEKTAR-PLUS to 100ml lukewarm (30°C) water OR 1 part NEKTAR-PLUS to 5.5 equal parts water

A measuring beaker holding 30ml is enclosed with the 800g and 1500g jars of NEKTAR-PLUS for easy dosing.

Slowly add the NEKTAR-PLUS powder to the lukewarm water stirring constantly to dissolve. Do not use a mixer or whisk as this could destroy the vitamins.

**Important:** Only absolutely germ-free water should be used to make up the NEKTAR-PLUS solution. This is particularly important in tropical and subtropical areas. If in doubt about the quality of the water, boil it first then allow to cool to lukewarm.

A solution of 13g NEKTAR-PLUS to 100ml water is enough for the daily needs of 2-3 humming birds or sunbirds. Please note that an increase in the dose of NEKTAR-PLUS could lead to a deterioration in your bird's health in the long run.

To ensure that there is no loss of effectiveness in the important substances we suggest you use our NEKTAR humming feeder for the NEKTAR-PLUS solution. It has been especially developed for this purpose and is made of brown Plexiglas, which filters light rays of up to 520nm wavelength thus preventing ultraviolet rays from penetrating. The sloping bottom of the tube allows the bird to reach every last drop of nectar feed and, therefore, any components that are not completely dissolved. As it holds 40ml, filled it covers the daily ration of even bigger types of hummers etc., Do not, on any account, use open drinking bowls as the bird's feathers would get smeared and sticky.

As all liquids containing protein, including the NEKTAR-PLUS mixture, tend to acidify in the course of the day, it would be wise to prepare the mixture twice a day to ensure freshness. However, this is often impractical for the busy breeder or working owner. We therefore recommend a combination of two of our products, NEKTAR-PLUS and DESI-PLUS, as the perfect solution for keeping humming or sun birds. By using the above products together you need only feed your birds once a day without cutting down on the correct treatment.

After cleaning the feeder and cap, etc., as usual, place them in a solution of DESI-PLUS and water overnight or at least 2 hours and next morning you can fill the NEKTAR-PLUS solution in germ-free containers. NO rinsing, NO drying, just let them drip dry. Not only have you made sure the NEKTAR-PLUS solution will keep longer, but you have saved yourself time and trouble without any detriment to your bird. The germ-free containers also make sure your bird need not suffer unnecessarily from inflammation of the stomach or intestines, or fungus infections.

## IMPORTANT:

Keep NEKTAR-PLUS in a cool, dark and dry place. Unopened, the vitamins will keep until the given date.

Differences in the yellow colouring of the contents and the presence of brown specks are due to the natural ingredients, and are not a sign of inferior quality or contamination.

NEKTAR-PLUS is so perfectly attuned to the needs of all hummers and sunbirds that no additions, not even fruit flies, are necessary, neither under normal conditions nor at times of stress such as moult or hatching.

## TIPS

NEKTAR-PLUS can also be used successfully as a food for sunbirds (nectarinae), bananaquits (*coereba flaveola*), flower-piercers (*diglossa*), and honeycreepers (*chlorophanes*), because it contains all the nutrients they need for healthy, vital lives. But NEKTAR-PLUS does not contain carotenoids (fatty pigments) because hummers do not need these substances in their diet to maintain their glossy, brilliant colours. The red or yellow parts of the above birds' plumage may, therefore, fade in time as their normal diet in the wild consists of plant and animal tissues containing the red and yellow pigments.

Numerous breeders and bird owners who have been feeding their sun birds, bananaquits, flower-piercers and honeycreepers NEKTAR-PLUS for years have reported that they add a little NEKTAR-R for the red colours or NEKTAR-GELB for the yellow regularly to the NEKTAR-PLUS solution. (1g = 1 spoonful flat of the measuring spoon enclosed in R or GELB is enough for 2 litres NEKTAR-PLUS solution). Their birds have retained their true colours without any harm to their health. The level of vitamins rises slightly, naturally, but never to a dangerous level.

## Lorikeets

In addition we have found that NEKTAR-PLUS can be used as an excellent and complete diet for small lorikeets. For some time now we have been rearing and keeping such lorikeets as the Whiskered and Red-flanked Lorikeet on a sole diet of NEKTAR-PLUS without any loss whatsoever. In fact results have been even better than feeding them on NEKTAR-LORI. Try it out yourself and you won't be disappointed.

N.B.: The dosage for NEKTAR-PLUS is different when used to feed lorikeets however.

Dosage:

In Gram

16 g NEKTAR-PLUS to 100 ml lukewarm (30°C) water

In Millilitre

20 ml NEKTAR-PLUS to 100 ml lukewarm (30°C) water

Prepare as instructed above.

## Butterflies

Some of the world's most renowned butterfly breeders and keepers feed their butterflies on the nourishing NEKTAR-PLUS solution with excellent results.

Stand 2002-06-10