

Immediate notification report

Report reference: , Ref OIE: 4549, Report Date: 20/01/2006 , Country: Hong Kong (P.R. China)

Report Summary

Disease	Highly pathogenic avian influenza	Animal type	Terrestrial
Causal Agent	avian influenza virus	Serotype(s)	H5N1
Clinical Signs	Yes	Reason	Reoccurrence of listed disease
Date of confirmation of Event	17/01/2006	Date of Start of Event	10/01/2006
Date of report	20/01/2006	Diagnosis	Laboratory (advanced)
Date of last occurrence	01/2005	Number of reported outbreaks	Submitted= 1, Draft= 0
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Entered by	Dr Antonio Petrini		

Outbreak (this report - submitted)

Province	District	Sub-district	Unit Type	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Start	End
HONG KONG	New territories		Not applicable	Tai Po	22,4491	114,1536	28/12/2005	
Species	Measuring units	Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Destroyed	Slaughtered		
Wild species	Animals	1	1	1	0	0		
Affected Population		a single male adult oriental magpie robin (<i>Copsychus saularis</i>)						

Outbreak summary: Total outbreaks = 1 (Submitted)

Species	Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Destroyed	Slaughtered
Wild species	1	1	1	0	0

Epidemiology

Epidemiological comments

Copsychus saularis is distributed in the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Indochina, the Philippines, the Andamans, Greater Sundas and southern China south of the Yangtze River. This bird is a common resident in Hong Kong. It inhabits a wide range of habitats such as gardens/parks, villages, secondary forests, open forests and mangroves. Insects are the main diet of the bird.

All poultry farms within 5 km of where the Oriental magpie robin was found have been checked and no unusual mortality or illness was detected. An intensive surveillance system is in place on all poultry farms and other locations.

Local poultry farms are routinely under a constant monitoring and surveillance programme involving serological and virological testing and have individual farm biosecurity plans, which include bird proofing of all sheds. All chicken farms are routinely vaccinated with inactivated H5N2 vaccine and each batch of chickens has 60 unvaccinated individually identified sentinels, which are monitored over the production life of the batch.

The virus was confirmed as a highly pathogenic H5N1 isolate by PCR(2) and sequencing of the HA connecting peptide region. Molecular analysis showed that the HA protein of A/MRb/HK/75/06 [H5N1] has the multiple basic amino acids to satisfy the motif of a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus for chickens, but there is a deletion in the second to last position of the connecting peptide (LRERRRK-R).

Phylogenetic analysis showed that A/MRb/HK/75/06 [H5N1] belongs to H5N1 genotype V, which has previously been recorded in southern China, Japan and South Korea. Genotype V differs from the dominant genotype Z, which is widespread throughout Asia, in the source of the PA gene. The H5-HA gene of this virus has high homology (98%) to the HA gene of A/Dk/Hunan/5806/03 [H5N1].

Source of Infection • Unknown or inconclusive

Control Measures

Applied • Screening	To be applied • No Planned Control Measures
Animals treated No	Vaccination Prohibited No

Country / Zone

Country or zone the whole country

Diagnostic test results

Laboratory Type	Name of Laboratory	Species	Test Type	Date Results Provided	Result
Local laboratory	The University of Hong Kong (HKU)	Wild species	gene sequencing	18/01/2006	Positive
National laboratory	Tai Lung Veterinary Laboratory, AFCD	Wild species	real-time reverse transcriptase/polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR)	17/01/2006	Positive
National laboratory	Tai Lung Veterinary Laboratory, AFCD	Wild species	haemagglutination inhibition test (HIT)	17/01/2006	Positive

Future Reporting

What further reports will be submitted in relation to this event?

There are 1 outbreaks that are still recorded as unresolved. It is not possible to declare this event resolved until these individual outbreaks are resolved.

Outbreak map

