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**CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN ITALY
in Parma province**

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 10 August 1998 from Dr R. Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 4 August 1998.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 6 August 1998.

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Fontevivo district, Parma province, Emilia-Romagna region	1

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
1,375	...	53	1,322	0

Epidemiology: primary outbreak.

Control measures during reporting period: control measures provided by National and European regulations.

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**POISONING BY *SIMARUBA AMARA* IN ARGENTINA
in equids (conclusions of the investigations)**

**[issued on 14 August 1998 under the following title:]
Unidentified condition in equids in Argentina**

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 3

Translation of a fax received on 11 August 1998 from Dr L.O. Barcos, President of the National Department of Agrarian Health (SENASA), Ministry of Economy, Public Works and Services, Buenos Aires:

End of previous report period: 15 July 1998 (see *Disease Information*, **11** [28], 101, dated 17 July 1998).

End of this report period: 10 August 1998.

Participating bodies: SENASA and the following:

- Official organisations: Centre for Research into Veterinary Science of the National Institute for Agricultural and Livestock Technology (CICV-INTA), Centre for Research and Development of the Timber and Related Industries, which is run by the National Institute for Industrial Technology (CITEMA-INTI), Department of Pharmacobotany of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry of the National University of Buenos Aires (F. F.&B. - UBA);
- Non-official organisations: Equestrian Federation of Argentina and private veterinarians in the sector.

Report on actions taken:

A) Attempts to detect an infective agent:

Samples analysed: nasal and buccal swabs, epithelium, blood sera.

The laboratory evidence obtained allowed the following diseases to be ruled out: vesicular stomatitis, African horse sickness, glanders, dourine, equine viral arteritis, equine adenovirus, equine herpesvirus HVE-1 and HVE-3, and piroplasmiasis (*Babesia equi* and *B. caballi*).

The possibility of a bacterial or mycotic aetiology was also investigated but no micro-organism corresponding to the clinical signs was isolated.

B) Attempts at experimental transmission:

Two horses housed in isolation stalls under biosafety conditions were challenged by inoculation of various types of material obtained from sick animals from the German Riding Club and also the supernatant of slightly suspect cell cultures.

Data recorded: body temperature, results of haematological and clinical examinations, and microbiological data (from day 0 to day 26 following inoculation).

Results: under the conditions described above, the clinical manifestations and lesions observed in horses in the German Riding Club were not reproduced experimentally.

C) Analysis of bedding material: various samples of wood shavings used as bedding material that had been collected during the disease episode were analysed.

Summary of findings:

C.1 *Identification of the botanical species:* CITEMA confirmed the presence of *Simaruba amara* and *Pinus sp.* in 5/5 and *Erismia uncinatum* in 2/5 of the samples. In addition, it determined the absence of impregnating substances in the said samples, such as CCA salts (chromium, copper, arsenic) and pentachlorophenol. The species cited first – *Simaruba amara* – is a species not native to Argentina and, according to official records, it has been imported from Brazil since the month of September 1997, with a marked increase in imports during the course of 1998, during which year some imports also came from Peru.

C.2 *Confirmation of the phytotoxic hypothesis:* at F. F.&B. - UBA, using chromatography [TLC⁽¹⁾ and HPTLC⁽²⁾], wood shavings of 100% pure *Simaruba amara* stock were compared with five control samples obtained in the same place and manner as in C.1. In all of the samples the presence was observed of characteristic chemical compounds, generically known as quassinosides, present in woods of the *Simarubaceae* family. Quassinosides include quassine and neoquassine. A previous case with similar characteristics was reported to have occurred in Illinois (United States of America) between 8 and 12 April 1992⁽³⁾. The bibliography also includes the report of an episode in which an irritant chemical substance found in a tree from the *Simarubaceae* family was found to be responsible for vesicular eruptions on the face and hands of gardeners who had been in contact with it⁽⁴⁾.

D) *Reproducibility of the disease:* in a joint SENASA/CICV-INTA experiment carried out at INTA headquarters from 7 July 1998, following the negative results of attempts to detect a causal agent described in paragraphs A) and B), two horses were exposed to environmental changes. The straw bedding was replaced with wood shavings comprised of 100% *Simaruba amara*. The animals were fed with bales of alfalfa placed directly on the bedding. On the fourteenth day of exposure, one of the horses started to reproduce signs in the mouth. On the twentieth day after commencing the trial, both horses faithfully reproduced the syndrome observed in the disease episode in the equestrian centres, namely the characteristic mouth lesions and nasal scabs. One of them presented a lesion in the mucocutaneous joint of the anus on day 21 following the trial. Moreover, it was confirmed that the biochemical profiles registered in the animals in the trial (indirect-reacting bilirubin) coincided with those encountered in the animals tested during the disease episode.

It was concluded from the results obtained that horses exposed to bedding containing *Simaruba amara* wood may develop erosive stomatitis.

General conclusion:

Taking into account that:

1. attempts at virus isolation in natural and experimental cases produced negative results;
2. no antibodies were detected and no seroconversion was demonstrated for viruses associated with manifestations of stomatitis;
3. no bacterial or mycotic agents capable of inducing the observed syndrome were observed;
4. attempted experimental transmission of the disease was unsuccessful;
5. success was achieved with experimental reproduction of the syndrome by incorporating wood shavings of *Simaruba amara* into the bedding;

it can now be concluded that stabled horses exposed to a bed of shavings containing *Simaruba amara* reproduce signs compatible with those encountered in the disease observed between 29 May 1998 and 16 June 1998 in five riding clubs in the Federal Capital and the surrounding area.

(1) thin layer chromatography.

(2) high performance thin layer chromatography.

(3) JAVMA - *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. Vol. 207, No. 2, 15 July 1995.

(4) Woods B., Calnan CD. "Toxic woods" in: *British Journal of Dermatology*. 1976, 95: 41.

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AVIAN INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS IN NORWAY

(*Date of last previously reported outbreak:* 1971).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Text of a communication received on 13 August 1998 from Dr G. Bakken, Chief Veterinary Officer, Royal Ministry of Agriculture, Oslo:

Infectious laryngotracheitis was diagnosed in a pheasant in a non commercial poultry flock.

The diagnosis (July 1998) was based on the pathological examination of a bird which presented signs of respiratory disease and on positive serology of other poultry on the same farm. One of the contact flock has also been found to be seropositive.

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Eidsvoll municipality, Akershus county	...

Epidemiology:

- A. Source of agent / origin of infection:** the source of infection has not yet been identified; epidemiological investigations are continuing.
- B. Other epidemiological details:** the national surveillance programme for infectious laryngotracheitis has shown that commercial poultry breeding stocks are seronegative.

Control measures during reporting period: isolation of the farm and stamping out has been performed. The buildings and immediate surroundings will be disinfected. All contacts have been isolated and examined by serology. Stamping out will be performed in seropositive contact flock. In Norway, infectious laryngotracheitis is defined as a "List A" disease, and stamping out is always applied following the discovery of a serologically confirmed case.

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