Contents

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN ARGENTINA
in wild pigeons

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of an e-mail received on 2 September 1999 from Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, President of the National Service of Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA), Ministry of Economy, Public Works and Services, Buenos Aires:

Report date: 2 September 1999.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 8 June 1999.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
El Tigre, province of Buenos Aires	1

Description of affected population: three wild pigeons in an urban habitat were found dead on the terrace of a private house in Puerto de Frutos in the area of El Tigre, province of Buenos Aires. In the same location another six pigeons with mild clinical signs of disease were killed.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

susceptible	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
...	9	3	6	0

Diagnosis: all of the analyses were completed by the end of August 1999.

A. Diagnostic tests carried out:

- Post-mortem data: congestive lesions in the brain. No Newcastle disease lesions were observed in other organs. The spleen, liver, lungs and brain were removed.
- Virus isolation: samples from organs obtained at post mortem were inoculated into embryonated SPF[(1)] chicken eggs. The virus was isolated following the fourth passage through chicken embryos (the isolation required several passages in order to achieve adaptation to the species).

B. Characterisation of the strain: a sample of allantoic fluid was sent to the INTA[(2)] to be typed using the PCR[(3)] technique. Another sample of the fluid was used to carry out the ICPI[(4)] test at the Central Laboratory.

- IPIC test: 1.26 (corresponding to a mesogenic strain).
- outcome of the PCR technique: this was a pathogenic strain of the Newcastle disease virus (this technique cannot differentiate a mesogenic from a velogenic strain).

Epidemiology / Measures implemented: the area of El Tigre is urban and semi-urban, with no commercial poultry farms. On the day of the discovery, and during the following 21 days, the area was carefully searched, especially around Puerto de Frutos, but no other dead birds were found, nor birds with clinical signs of the disease. The people living or working in the area were apprised of the situation and of the need to report any new episode to SENASA.

Argentina maintains its status as free from Newcastle disease due to velogenic strains of the virus, as notified to the OIE in June 1997 (see *Disease Information*, **10** [35], 117, of 29 August 1997). The present report contributes to reporting the presence of viral activity in wild birds, such as pigeons living in an urban habitat.

(1) SPF: specific pathogen free
(2) INTA: *Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria* (National Institute for Agricultural and Livestock Technologies)
(3) PCR: polymerase chain reaction
(4) ICPI: intracerebral pathogenicity index

*
* *

BLUETONGUE IN GREECE
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 2

Text of an e-mail received on 4 September 1999 from Dr Vasilios Stylas, Head, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Athens:

End of previous report period: 18 August 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [32], 118, dated 20 August 1999).
End of this report period: 3 September 1999.

1. Updated results of epidemiological surveillance

1.1. Clinical surveillance

New clinical outbreaks:

Location	*No. of new outbreaks*
Evros	1 village
Rodopi	3 villages

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	*susceptible*	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
ovi	577	26	9*	...	...
cap	8	0	0	...	...

* Dead animals were reported by the farmer and their death cannot definitely be attributed to bluetongue.

Intensive clinical surveillance has so far failed to identify clinical cases of bluetongue in the prefectures of Xanthi, Serres, Drama and Kilkis.

1.2. Updated results of serological screening for bluetongue

Prefecture	Date of sampling	Bovines	Sheep	Goats
		Total / Positive	Total / Positive	Total / Positive
Evros (1)	3-19/08/99	383 / 37 (9.6 %)	373 /1 (0.3 %)	205 / 11 (5.4 %)
Rodopi(2)	5-26/08/99	575 / 148 (25 %)	3,795 / 81 (2.1 %)	419 / 16 (3.8 %)
Xanthi	15-17/08/99	88 / 0	91 / 0	107 / 0
Drama(3)	20/08/99	163 / 0	246 / 7 (2.8 %)	255 / 153 (60 %)
Serres(4)	24/08/99	204 / 0	260 / 22 (8.5 %)	
Kilkis	20/08/99	11 / 0	25 / 0	35 / 0

(1) positive results were from the villages of Mandra, M. Derio, Rousa, Pentalofos.
(2) positive results were from the villages of Drania, Ano- & Kato-Kambi, Melitena, Krystalli, Ano- & Kato-Kardamos, Sima, Trikorfo, Talis, Chloi, Kerasia, A. Vrisini.
(3) positive results were from the villages of Krini, Kataphyto, Vathytopos, Exochi, Potami, Pagoneri.
(4) positive results were from the villages of K. Poroia, Nea Petritsi, Vironia, Karidochori.

2. Discussion of results of surveillance

A preliminary assessment of the clinical and serological findings available to date leads to the following provisional conclusions of epidemiological significance:

2.1. Overall situation

a) On the basis of serological evidence, the disease has rapidly and consistently spread along the border with Bulgaria and, at present, appears to be confined to the mountainous areas near or on the border.

b) The spread of infection within Greek territory remains geographically confined to clusters, reflecting either favourable weather and terrain conditions or the adequate size of local populations of non-specific vectors or, simply, an early stage of incursion.

2.2. Specific situation in affected prefectures

a) In Evros, the situation appears to have stabilised and there has been no further clinical or serological evidence of spread of disease in the past 10 days. In particular, it is worth mentioning that there have been no more clinical cases in the infected sheep flock in Petrolofos since 17 August.

Non-propagation of clinical disease in an infected flock may indicate that the original infection occurred once and was due to “incoming” infected vectors acting at the limit of their range, while there are no local populations of vectors capable of sustaining the infection. Local vector control measures may have played a role in reducing vectors.

b) In Rodopi, the situation is less favourable and there is further clinical and serological evidence of propagation and spread of the disease.

However, all clinical outbreaks as well as high seroprevalence are concentrated in the north-east, while the north-western part remains by and large unaffected.

c) In Xanthi, there is no clinical or serological evidence of infection. Possible reasons for this “exception” are currently under investigation.

d) In Drama and Serres, serological evidence has been obtained, particularly in goats.

In these prefectures the apparent preference of vectors for goats is a puzzling finding and it may be attributable either to local micro-climatic conditions or involvement of a different species of vector. Entomological investigations are in progress.

3. Surveillance, control and safeguard measures

In the light of recent serological findings, a revised set of surveillance, control and safeguard measures has been implemented in the prefectures of Evros, Rodopi, Xanthi, Drama and Serres, as of 3 September 1999.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN PERU

(***Date of last previously reported outbreak:*** April 1997).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of a fax received on 9 September 1999 from Dr Oscar M. Dominguez Falcon, Director General of Animal Health, National Service of Agricultural Health (SENASA), Ministry of Agriculture, Lima:

Report date: 31 July 1999.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.
Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 13 July 1999.
Estimated date of first infection: 6 July 1999.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Marcavilca district, Sullana province, Piura region	1
Lurín district, Lima province, Lima region	1

Description of affected population: local breed fattening cattle of various ages and either sex. Intensive rearing.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	*susceptible*	*cases*	*deaths*	*destroyed*	*slaughtered*
bov	3,412	63	0	53	0
ovi	21	0	0	21	0
sui	87	0	0	87	0

Diagnosis:

- ***A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:*** Animal Health Laboratory (SENASA, Lima) and Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (Panaftosa, Brazil).
- ***B. Diagnostic tests used:*** complement fixation test and ELISA.
- ***C. Causal agent:*** virus type A_{24}.

Epidemiology:

- ***A. Source of agent / origin of infection:*** northern border of the country.
- ***B. Mode of spread:*** movements of animals and vehicles.
- ***C. Other epidemiological details:*** no foot and mouth disease outbreaks due to virus type O have been reported since April 1997 and no foot and mouth disease outbreaks due to virus type A had been reported since 1996.

Control measures during reporting period:

- quarantine;
- movement control inside the country;
- stamping out (Piura outbreak);
- vaccination.

*
* *

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN IRAN
Virus type Asia 1 identified

(***Date of last previously reported outbreak due to virus type Asia 1:*** 1991).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Extract from a fax received on 8 September 1999 from the OIE World Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease (Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom):

Report date: 8 September 1999.

A large number of samples have been received from Iran for FMD diagnosis.

Serotype Asia 1 has been identified in one of the first samples to be examined, which confirms the diagnosis already made in Iran.

*
* *

ISSN 1012-5329