

Contents

African swine fever in Eritrea: invalidation of diagnosis	127
Vesicular stomatitis in the United States of America: follow-up report No. 2	128
Infectious pancreatic necrosis in Slovakia	129
Newcastle disease in Israel: in pigeons	130
Vesicular stomatitis in Belize: follow-up report No. 2 (final report)	131
Foot and mouth disease in Colombia: follow-up report No. 4 (final report)	132
Highly pathogenic avian influenza in Thailand: follow-up report No. 55	133
Miscellaneous: further update on letter threatening release of foot and mouth disease virus on a New Zealand offshore island	133

**AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN ERITREA
INVALIDATION OF DIAGNOSIS**

In a letter received on 13 May 2005 by the OIE Animal Health Information Department, Dr David J. Paton, OIE expert for African swine fever at the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom, pointed out that the suspected cases of African swine fever reported in Eritrea in November 2004 (see *Disease Information*, **17** [48], 355, dated 26 November 2004) had been invalidated by his laboratory. The first results obtained at Pirbright Laboratory on 23 December 2004 favoured a confirmation of diagnosis (haemadsorption was observed when samples were inoculated onto bone marrow cultures). However, additional tests (real-time PCR⁽¹⁾, immunofluorescence, pig inoculation and electron microscopy), the results of which were known on 4 February 2005, invalidated the first results (the haemadsorption phenomenon that was observed may be due to another, unidentified agent).

(1) PCR: polymerase chain reaction

*
* *

VESICULAR STOMATITIS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Follow-up report No. 2

Information received on 16 May 2005 from Dr Peter Fernandez, Associate Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, DC:

End of previous report period: 9 May 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [19], 121, dated 13 May 2005).

End of this report period: 15 May 2005.

Precise identification of agent: vesicular stomatitis virus type New Jersey.

Date of first confirmation of the event: 27 April 2005.

Date of start of the event: 16 April 2005.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Details of new outbreaks:

First administrative division	Lower administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Name of the location	Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreaks				
						susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
State of Arizona	Yavapai County	farm	Cottonwood	27 April 2005	equ	2	2	0	0	0
State of Arizona	Yavapai County	farm	Sedona	5 May 2005	equ	2	1	0	0	0
State of Arizona	Yavapai County	farm	Wagoner	5 May 2005	equ	9	4	0	0	0
					bov	150	0	0	0	0

Description of affected population: horses on two of the affected premises are utilized as companion or recreational animals for riding. The horses on the third premises are used as working horses on a cattle ranch

Diagnosis:

Laboratory where diagnosis was made	Species examined	Diagnostic tests used	Date	Results
National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, Iowa	equ	complement fixation test	14 May 2005	positive

Source of outbreak or origin of infection: unknown or inconclusive (vectors?).

Control measures undertaken:

- control of arthropods;
- quarantine;
- on-going surveillance activities are being performed by APHIS Veterinary Services and New Mexico and Arizona State Departments of Agriculture personnel.

Treatment of affected animals: no.

Vaccination prohibited: yes.

*
* *

INFECTIOUS PANCREATIC NECROSIS IN SLOVAKIA

(Disease never reported before in Slovakia).

IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REPORT

Information received on 17 May 2005 from Prof. Jozef Bires, Director General, State Veterinary and Food Administration (SVFA), Bratislava:

Report date: 2 May 2005.

Reason for immediate notification: first occurrence or re-occurrence in a country or zone /compartment of the country, if the country or zone/compartment of the country was previously considered to be free of that particular disease.

Within the framework of a monitoring programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia and infectious haematopoietic necrosis, a suspicion of infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN) arose as a result of laboratory tests carried out at the State Veterinary and Food Institute Dolný Kubín (national reference laboratory for fish diseases) on fish sampled on 8 December 2004 from a farm located in Galanta county, in the western part of the country. In the farm, at the time of suspicion, the main fish species farmed for human consumption were *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *Esox lucius*, *Carpio cyprinus*, *Acipenser* spp. and *Huso huso*.

Based on the suspicion, the Galanta District Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) took preventive measures to avoid any disease spread.

Since repeated tests supported the suspicion, the national reference laboratory requested the European Union (EU) reference laboratory for fish diseases for confirmation of the suspected first outbreak of IPN on the territory of Slovakia.

Using a virus neutralisation test, under protocol number 205058, the EU reference laboratory confirmed the presence of the virus in three out of five samples submitted and informed the national reference laboratory on 4 April 2005.

The epidemiological investigations carried out failed to determine the source of the virus. According to available documentation and trace-in/trace-out investigations, and considering the potential introduction period, the DVFA and SVFA considered piscivorous birds as a possible source of introduction of the virus.

Based on the confirmed presence of the IPN virus in samples, the DVFA withdrew the previous preventive measures and introduced the following new measures:

- any intended movement of fish from the farm concerned should be notified one working day in advance;
- every consignment of live fish originating from the IPN-infected farm should be clearly identified as such.

*
* *

NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN ISRAEL in pigeons

(**Date of previous outbreak of Newcastle disease in Israel reported to the OIE:** July 2004).

IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REPORT

Information received on 17 May 2005 from Dr Moshe Chaimovitz, Director of Veterinary and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Beit-Dagan:

Report date: 15 May 2005.

Reason for immediate notification: re-occurrence of a listed disease or infection in a country or zone/compartiment following a report declaring the outbreak(s) ended.

Date of start of the event: February 2005.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Details of outbreaks:

First administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Name of the location	Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreaks				
					susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
Yizrael district	farm	Yoqneam	Feb. 2005	avi	50	1	1	49	0
Hadera district	village	Hadera	March 2005	avi	20	1	1	19	0

Description of affected population: hobby pigeons.

Diagnosis:

Laboratories where diagnosis was made	Diagnostic tests used	Date	Results
- Tsfat regional poultry disease laboratory; - Kimron Veterinary Institute.	- inhibition haemagglutination test; - pathogen isolation by egg inoculation; - intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) test.	...	- ICPI in Yoqneam: 1.15; - ICPI in Hadera: 1.20.

Source of outbreaks or origin of infection: unknown or inconclusive.

Control measures undertaken:

- stamping out;
- screening;
- zoning;
- vaccination;
- disinfection of infected premises/establishment(s).

Vaccination in response to the outbreaks:

Total number of vaccinated animals	Details of the vaccine
all flocks (poultry and pigeons) within a radius of 10 km	- for chickens and turkeys: live virus vaccine (VH strain) by spray; - for pigeons: inactivated virus vaccine (VH strain).

In Israel, all chickens, turkeys, ostriches and pigeons are required by law to be vaccinated against Newcastle disease. Immediately after the report of suspicion, booster vaccination orders were issued to the owners of all poultry holdings within a radius of 10 km around each outbreak.

Other details/comments:

- Outbreak of Hadera: in the area of the outbreak and in the village there are no poultry holdings.
- Outbreak of Yoqneam: all poultry holdings within a radius of 10 km of the outbreak were checked serologically and/or clinically for Newcastle disease. There were no indications of infection on any of these farms.

Final report: yes.

*
* *

VESICULAR STOMATITIS IN BELIZE
Follow-up report No. 2 (final report)

Information received on 18 May 2005 from Dr Victor Gongora, Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belmopan:

End of previous report period: 22 March 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [12], 89, dated 25 March 2005).

End of this report period: 15 May 2005.

As reported previously, an epizootic of vesicular stomatitis occurred in February 2005, with laboratory-confirmed cases from 5 to 28 February 2005.

A total of 19 farms reported vesicular lesions: 11 farms reported lesions in cattle, the others in horses.

All laboratory-confirmed cases occurred in the Cayo District. One farm each in the Stann Creek and Orange Walk Districts reported cases; no sample could be obtained from the former and the latter tested negative. The Orange Walk case was reported on 15 March 2005 and a definitive negative result was obtained on 31 March 2005.

Given that the enhanced surveillance has not detected any further cases in the Cayo District or elsewhere in the country, the epizootic is considered to be over.

*
* *

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN COLOMBIA
Follow-up report No. 4 (final report)

Translation of information received on 18 May 2005 from Dr Juan Alcides Santaella Gutiérrez, General Manager, Colombian Institute for Agriculture and Livestock (ICA), Bogota:

End of previous report period: 21 April 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [16], 111, dated 22 April 2005).

End of this report period: 13 May 2005.

Precise identification of agent: foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus serotype A24 Cruzeiro. PANAFTOSA⁽¹⁾ characterised the virus using the molecular method and found that the isolate showed a high level of homology with the PANAFTOSA 'A24 Cruzeiro' reference strain (matching of 638 nucleotides out of 639 nucleotides analysed).

Source of outbreak or origin of infection: from the results obtained at PANAFTOSA it can be assumed that the outbreak was caused by a laboratory virus strain. As a result of laboratory testing and the epidemiological investigations carried out around the outbreak and in in-contact farms, the likelihood of a field origin has been ruled out.

Strict disinfection and quarantine measures were maintained for two months.

Details of outbreak (updated data):

Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreak				
		susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
25 Feb. 2005	bov	41	16*	0	17**	0
	o/c	39	5***	0	5	0

* 1 clinical case and 15 animals that tested positive using an I-ELISA 3ABC-EITB⁽²⁾.

** Including 1 in-contact animal.

*** Sheep that tested positive using VAA⁽³⁾ immunodiffusion.

During the outbreak, only one animal presented clinical signs of FMD.

All the animals on the farm where the clinical case occurred underwent three rounds of serological testing: I-ELISA 3ABC-EITB⁽¹⁾ for cattle and VAA⁽²⁾ immunodiffusion for sheep and goats. A total of 15 cattle and 5 sheep tested positive. They, the clinically bovine and one in-contact bovine were killed and destroyed by incineration.

Four sentinel animals (young unvaccinated cattle that tested negative to the initial test using the I-ELISA 3ABC-EITB system) were kept inside the affected farm in order to corroborate that the FMD outbreak had been fully eradicated. The three sets of samples, taken at intervals of nine days, yielded negative results to the test.

The measures applied are those recommended for endemic areas.

(1) PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD)

(2) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. EITB: enzyme-linked immunoelectrotransfer blot

(3) VAA: virus infection-associated antigen

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THAILAND
Follow-up report No. 55

Information received on 19 May 2005 from Dr Yukol Limlamthong, Director General, Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok:

End of previous report period: 12 May 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [19], 124, dated 13 May 2005).

End of this report period: 19 May 2005.

No new outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza have been reported.

*
* *

**MISCELLANEOUS: FURTHER UPDATE ON LETTER THREATENING RELEASE OF FOOT AND MOUTH
DISEASE VIRUS ON A NEW ZEALAND OFFSHORE ISLAND**

Information received on 16 May 2005 from Dr Barry O'Neil, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Wellington:

End of previous report period: 11 May 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [19], 126, dated 13 May 2005).

End of this report period: 16 May 2005.

A second letter has been received, via the media, stating that the original letter sent last week claiming release of "a vial of FMD virus on an off-shore island" was a hoax and that no FMD virus was released in New Zealand. A police assessment has confirmed that the letter is highly likely to have come from the same source as the first one.

Intensive surveillance on the island and extensive investigations over the past week have shown no evidence of clinical signs of FMD or factual substance to the original letter.

As a result of this additional information and the surveillance results thus far, New Zealand now intends to remove the legal restrictions covering the movement of animals and other goods off Waiheke Island by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 17 May 2005.

*
* *

All OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) publications are protected by international copyright law. Extracts may be copied, reproduced, translated, adapted or published in journals, documents, books, electronic media and any other medium destined for the public, for information, educational or commercial purposes, provided prior written permission has been granted by the OIE.

The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The views expressed in signed articles are solely the responsibility of the authors. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.