

Pathologically, the disease may be confused with mink encephalopathy caused by a prion/unconventional agent similar to that causing scrapie, however, the age of the kits and the pattern of lesions are different. We would be interested in hearing if other workers in Canada or overseas see a similar condition. Frozen brain, kidney, serum and urine will be helpful to confirm its relationship to these reported cases as we continue this investigation.

#### References

1. Baird JD, Wojinski ZW, Wise AP, Godkin MA. Maple syrup urine disease in five Hereford calves in Ontario. *Can Vet J* 1987; 28: 505-511.

2. Cohn RM, Roth KS. *Metabolic Disease*. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1983: 221-261.
3. Bondy PK, Rosenberg LE. *Metabolic Control*, 8th ed. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1980: 583-776.

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## Saskatchewan

### Conjunctivitis associated with *Staphylococcus hyicus* subsp. *hyicus* in an ostrich

In mid-January, a swab obtained from the eye of an ostrich with clinical signs of conjunctivitis was examined at the Bacteriology Diagnostic Laboratory of the WCVM. A Gram-stained smear was prepared, and the sample was processed for routine bacteriological culture as well as for *Haemophilus* and *Mycoplasma* spp. The smear revealed some gram-positive cocci as well as gram-negative rods. High numbers of *Staphylococcus hyicus* subsp. *hyicus*, nonhemolytic *Streptococcus* sp. and *Lactobacillus* sp. were isolated, together with small numbers of *Enterobacter* sp. One week later, sampling was repeated; also sampled at this time were the eyes of three other ostriches without clinical signs, and the eyes of a healthy pig living in contact with the ostriches. *Staphylococcus hyicus* subsp. *hyicus* was re-isolated from the affected ostrich but not from any of the other animals. Neither *Haemophilus* sp. nor *Mycoplasma* sp. was isolated on any occasion. Smears stained for *Chlamydia* (done in the second set of samples) were

negative. The affected bird was treated topically with chloramphenicol ointment and responded well.

In conjunction with *Escherichia coli* and *Streptococcus* sp., *S. hyicus* has been associated with conjunctivitis in chickens and turkeys (1). Our findings suggest that *S. hyicus* was significant in this ostrich. Further studies of distribution and characterization of the strains of *S. hyicus* on the farm are in progress.

#### References

1. Cheville NF, Tappe J, Ackerman M, Jensen A. Acute fibrinopurulent blepharitis and conjunctivitis associated with *Staphylococcus hyicus*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Streptococcus* sp. in chickens and turkeys. *Vet Pathol* 1988; 25: 369-375.

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## Alberta

### Infectious pancreatic necrosis in hatchery fish

Infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN) was diagnosed in fish stocks at a hatchery near Calgary. A small spike in the mortality curve was initially observed in some lots of fingerlings. Examination of moribund fish occasionally revealed the presence of petechial hemorrhage in the pancreas. Histologically there was evidence of necrosis of pancreatic acini. Considerable mucus was found in the lumen of the intestine; this may have been associated with the anorexia also evident in the fish.

Cytopathic effect typical of IPN virus was observed in BF<sub>2</sub> tissue culture cells inoculated with suspect tissues. Serum neutralization was used to confirm the identity of the agent as IPN virus. Isolates of virus and

suspect fingerlings were forwarded to two other laboratories for confirmation and strain typing. Both laboratories confirmed the presence of IPN virus in both cultures and fish submitted.

The virus was isolated from fingerling and yearling rainbow trout. To date, it has not been identified in stocks of brown trout or eastern brook trout present in the nonrecirculating water systems of the hatchery. Extensive testing is currently underway to attempt to identify the source of the IPN virus. Brood stocks, which have previously supplied eggs to the hatchery, are currently being sampled and monitored for IPN virus.