The risk of infection by African swine fever virus in European swine through boar movement and legal trade of pigs and pig meat Supplementary Information

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Supplementary Info S1: Additional Methods

Further details on the methods and data used to calculate this risk assessment are provided here in order to aid the reader to understand the methods and be able to replicate our results if desired.

Legal trade of live pigs

The parameter values that are required for the legal trade of live pigs pathway, summarised in [Table 1](#page-1-0), are those that are involved in the equation for R_0 . We estimate the contact rate between pigs on a farm based on a study by Temple et al. (2011) in which the behaviour of Iberian pigs was assessed on intensive and extensive pig farms. The percentage of animals engaging in social contact on extensive farms was 3.3% (±0.73) and on intensive farms was 15.1% (±1.51). Since pig farms across Europe may be extensive or intensive and we do not have data on which type the farm would be, we assume an average of 9.2% (±1.19). To convert this percentage into a yearly contact rate we multiply by 365.

The probability of transmission of ASFV from pig to pig given contact is estimated from experimental studies. From an experimental study which considered innoculation through a low dose of ASF such as through touching rather than blood contact (Pietschmann et al. 2015), we estimate 0.167 as the mode of a pert distribution. Since we expect that some contact may not be suitable for transmission, we set 0 as the minimum of the pert distribution. We assume a maximum of the pert distribution of 0.3 based upon studies by Guinat et al. (2016) and Pietschmann et al. (2015) in which successful transmission to pigs in direct and indirect contact can take many days to occur, despite the close contact involved in experimental settings. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that not all contacts will be successful.

The length of the infectious period in pigs is taken as a pert distribution, estimated from experimental studies on ASFV infection in pigs (Gabriel et al. 2011, Guinat et al. 2014).

Lastly, we need to estimate the number of susceptible pigs that infected pigs will be in contact with. This is usually determined by pen sizes, which are highly variable within and between EU MSs. The study by Temple et al. (2011) indicated that pen sizes in intensive farms ranged from 7 pigs to 320 pigs while in extensive farms the average size was 185 pigs. We also have data on the number of pigs in each region and the number of farms through which we can calculate the average number of pigs on a farm in each region. We therefore assume a uniform distribution for the number of susceptible animals that ranges from 7 up to the minimum between our calculated average farm size and 320 pigs.

Table 1 Parameter values for the legal trade of live pigs pathway with a description and reference. Rates and times are given in units of years unless otherwise specified.

Movement of wild boar

We estimate the incidence of ASFV infection in wild boar in each cell c using the reported cases of ASF in wild boar in 2018, an under-reporting factor and a smoothing method to estimate potential unreported cases in neighbouring cells. For exact details see Taylor et al. (2019b). The estimated incidence in Europe in 2018 is plotted in [Figure 1](#page-2-0).

As stated in the main text, there are multiple equations used for R_0 in the wild boar movement pathway depending on whether the wild boar are in contact with and transmit the infection to pigs or other boar. In line with Taylor et al. (2019b), we model the contact between live boar and susceptible pigs in each cell c by considering the contact rate (γ), the probability of transmission given contact (β), the number of susceptible pigs in the cell ($S(c)$) and the length of the infectious period in boar ($1/r$):

$$
R_0(c) = \frac{\beta \gamma p_S S(c)}{r}.
$$

Here, p_S is the proportional size of the boar home range compared to the cell size.

For wild boar contact with other boar, we consider the fact that wild boar normally exist in matrilineal groups (Podgórski et al. 2014), and so we adapt the contact rate to include both a within-group contact and a betweengroup contact. To do this, we replace $\gamma p_S S(c)$ with

$$
\gamma_W G + \gamma_B (p_S S(c) - G).
$$

Here, γ_W is the within-group contact rate, G is the average group size and γ_B is the between-group contact rate which is applicable for contact with all other boar in the home range.

A second consideration for wild boar transmission is the probability that wild boar will die from infection. The carcasses of ASF-infected animals can still be infectious and contribute to transmission of ASF. We assume that domestic pigs would not have any contact with boar carcasses, and thus this is only relevant to the R_0 equation for wild boar. We estimate the number of new cases of ASF due to contact with an infected carcass as

$$
\frac{p_d\gamma_d\beta_c S(c)}{r_c}.
$$

In this equation, p_d is the probability that direct contact will occur with a carcass, γ_d is the total number of direct contacts per year each boar has with a carcass, β_c is the transmission probability from a carcass to a susceptible animal per contact, r_c is the rate at which the carcass is available to cause infection, which is the inverse of the length of time the carcass is available (T_c). T_c is determined by two factors, skeletonisation of the carcass and whether the carcass is found and removed, as follows:

$$
r_c = \frac{1}{T_c} = \frac{1}{(1 - p_r)T_S + p_r T_r},
$$

where T_S is the time until skeletonisation of the carcass, T_r is the time until removal of a carcass and p_r is the probability that a boar carcass is found and removed.

Therefore, our full equation for $R_0(c)$ in susceptible boar populations, i.e. the likelihood of new cases occurring in susceptible boar in cell c given an infected wild boar has entered the cell, is:

$$
R_0(c) = \frac{\beta(\gamma_W G + \gamma_B(p_S S(c) - G))}{r} + p_L \left(\frac{p_d \gamma_d \beta_c}{r_c}\right) S(c),
$$

where p_{L} is the probability of lethal infection in boar.

Parameter values for the wild boar movement model and the transmission of the disease are in [Table 2](#page-3-0). For a description of why specific parameter values were chosen, please see Taylor et al. (2019b).

Legal trade of pig meat products

Product Types and Composition

As outlined in the main text, there are many different pig meat product types that are traded to and from EU MSs. In total, there are 119 different product codes in Comext that correspond to some form of pig meat, not including those products which are not for consumption purposes or we considered as no risk, such as hides, dog or cat food, or canned meat (as we assumed it would be heated sufficiently to kill off any virus). Following Adkin et al. (2004) we simplify these into 12 categories, as seen in [Table 3](#page-5-0). There are 5 processes that could be applied to each of the product categories (dried, smoked, salted, chilled and frozen), but not all product categories undergo all processes. This leads to a total of 21 different product categories by type and process ([Table 3](#page-5-0)).

Table 3 The simplified product types in 12 categories, the processes each product undergoes and the associated Comext products codes that we included in each category, based upon Adkin et al. (2004).

Each of these 12 product categories are composed of tissues in different proportions. These tissues include muscle, skin, offal, bone and fat. In [Table 4](#page-6-0) we outline the proportion of each product that we assume is a certain tissue, also based upon Adkin et al. (2004).

Table 4 The composition of each of the product types we consider. The proportion of each product type that is composed of muscle, fat, bone, skin and offal is indicated.

Transport Time

We estimated the transport time of trade of pig meat products from each origin country to each destination country based on a method from Simons et al. (2016). We did this in order to estimate the amount of time from slaughter to consumption and hence to determine the remaining viral load due to decay over time. The distance of an origin country to a destination country was calculated using the great-circle distance metric, which takes into account the curvature of the earth. We estimated the average speed of "fast" transport such as by air, and "slow" transport such as rail, road and ship, in order to calculate the time taken between countries via fast or slow transport. We then estimated the proportion of travel that occurred via fast or slow transport by analysing data on trade for each EU MSs from Eurostat (Eurostat 2017) to calculate an average time taken from one country to another regardless of transport method.

Backyard Pigs

An estimate for the number of backyard pig farms in each cell c is required, but there are no data on the exact locations of backyard pig farms in each EU MSs. However, EU MSs provide Eurostat with estimates of the total number of backyard pigs and backyard pig farms in their country stratified by pig gender, size and age. We considered all backyard pig farms that did not have a sow to estimate the total number of backyard pig farms in each country and the average number of pigs on each farm.

We then need to estimate where the backyard pig farms are located. We had additional data for Great Britain regarding locations of backyard pig farms. We plotted this to discover if there were patterns or proxy data that we could use to estimate where backyard pigs are located. In general we found that the backyard pig farms were relatively spatially homogenous. We also found no correlation between backyard pig farm density and pig density. This makes sense as there is no reason to believe that backyard pig farms will be located near to commercial farms. We found a small correlation between human density and backyard pig farm density. In particular, we found that when human density is very low, there are unlikely to be backyard pig farms. Therefore, we analyzed the data for an effective cutoff which determined if human population numbers are high enough to host backyard pig farms. Otherwise, we assume a homogenous distribution of backyard pig farms. Thus, for all cells in each country that are above that human density cutoff, we distribute the number of backyard pig farms in that country evenly and assume no backyard pig farms in the cells below the cutoff. We assumed that all countries are similar to Great Britain regarding distribution of backyard pigs. This gives an estimate for the number of backyard pig farms in each cell c which we use within a Poisson equation to gain a simulated value for each cell.

Boar Dietary Habits

When calculating the amount of viral load that a boar could contact or ingest at a waste site, we are required to consider how much boar eat in comparison to how much food is present. According to Badminton Feeds (2019), wild boar eat up to 4kg of food per day, and the average UK household sends 4.6kg of food to landfill each week (WRAP 2008). We therefore assume that if a boar is able to enter a landfill/waste site, they will consume one household's amount of food at a time. We distribute the infected meat equally among households to estimate the total viral load in each household's waste and hence the amount each boar would eat at a time.

Parameter Values

The parameter values for the legal trade of pig meat products pathway are outlined in [Table 5.](#page-7-0)

Table 5 Parameter values for the legal trade of pig meat products pathway with a description and reference. Rates and times are given in units of years unless otherwise specified.

Supplementary Info S2: Additional Results

The probability of at least one infection in pigs for the zoomed-in regions for the wild boar movement pathway is shown in [Figure 2](#page-10-0).

Figure 2 The probability of at least one infection in pigs with ASFV in 2019 due to the movement of wild boar in Europe plotted at a 100km² cell level. We zoom in to three regions where there were cases in 2018 (A) Belgium; (B) Poland, Latvia and Lithuania; and (C) Hungary, Czech Republic and Romania. Countries are indicated by their ISO3 code.

Summary of Risk across Europe

We present summaries of the probability of infection across all cells in EU MS for both boar and pigs. These tables and histograms indicate more clearly how many cells have the lowest probability of infection versus how many have higher probability of infection. Most cells with non-zero probability of infection across Europe are in the lowest estimates of risk for each pathway and overall. The probability of infection in pigs across all 100km² cells in Europe in summarised in [Figure](#page-11-0) *3* and Table 6.

Figure 3 The frequency of 100km² cells with each probability of infection in pigs across Europe for all 3 pathways combined. Note the break in the y-axis since the number of cells with probability of infection between 0 – 0.05 is much higher than the number of cells with a higher probability of infection.

Table 6 The probability of infection in pigs across all EU MSs at a 100km² cell level, summarised as the number of cells with each probability for the 3 pathways of legal trade of live pigs, legal trade of pig meat products and wild boar movement.

Similarly the probability of infection in boar is summarised across all cell in [Figure 4](#page-13-0) and Table 7.

Figure 4 The frequency of 100km² cells with each probability of infection in boar across Europe for all 2 pathways combined. Note the break in the y-axis since the number of cells with probability of infection between 0 – 0.05 is much higher than the number of cells with a higher probability of infection.

Table 7 The probability of infection in boar across all EU MSs at a 100km² cell level, summarised as the number of cells with each probability for the 2 pathways of legal trade of live pigs, legal trade of pig meat products and wild boar movement.

Risk for each Country

To compare which of the pathways are of the highest risk, we present the overall probability and the probability per pathway of infection in pigs in 2019 at an EU MS country level (Table 8). That is, for each country we present the probability of at least one infection in boar or pigs per pathway and through any of the 3 pathways. This indicates that for most MSs, the highest risk pathway is either the legal trade of live pigs or the movement of wild boar. The legal trade of pig meat products is rarely the highest risk, with Austria and Slovenia as the only countries indicating this (although the highest risk by this pathway is still only a 5% chance of infection in pigs). For many MSs, the movement of wild boar pathway is not applicable, as they are not geographically close enough to any reported cases. When it is applicable, more than half the time this is the highest risk pathway for those countries. Western European countries mostly have legal trade of live pigs as the highest risk pathway.

Table 8 The probability of at least one infection with ASFV in pigs in each country for all pathways combined and for the individual pathways. Countries are listed from greatest overall risk to lowest. The pathways are colored according to the risk per pathway – the darker the color of pathway for that country, the riskier for that country. Countries are indicated by their ISO3 code.

The overall risk to boars by country is found in Table 9. As trade in live pigs does not include a transmission to boar component, only the two other pathways are combined to produce the overall risk. For all the highest risk countries the movement of wild boar is the pathway with greatest risk, although many of these high risk countries have a high probability for both pathways. For all other countries, the legal trade of pig meat products is highest. This is because the movement of wild boar pathway can only affect those countries with wild boar cases already or neighbouring those that do, whereas the legal trade of pig meat products can affect all countries that have wild boar.

Table 9 The probability of at least one infection with ASFV in boar in each country for all pathways combined and for the individual pathways (trade in live pigs not included as boar cannot be infected via this route). Countries are listed from greatest overall risk to lowest. The individual pathways are colored according to the risk per pathway – the darker the color of pathway for that country, the riskier for that country. Countries are indicated by their ISO3 code.

Supplementary Info S3: Scenario and Sensitivity Analysis

Scenario Analysis

Methods

We perform a scenario analysis for this pathway to investigate the role of detection of ASF-infected animals at entry to the country. In the baseline results we assume that no detection takes place, because all testing of pigs or pig meat in the EU is voluntary. However, it is possible that some countries implement testing of animals on entry, perhaps by observation or by clinical tests. To explore the effect that successful detection of animals would have on the probability of infection with ASF in pigs across Europe, we perform a scenario in which all countries have a probability of 0.375 of detecting each infected pig. This value of 0.375 is chosen based upon the assumption that most detection would be via visual inspection and then comparing the length of the latent period in pigs compared to the length of time of clinical signs. We use a value of 10 days for the number of days before clinical signs appear (see [Table 5](#page-7-0)) and a value of 6 days for the number of days that clinical signs are apparent (the mode of the infectious period, [Table 1](#page-1-0)). Thus the proportion of time that animals show clinical signs compared to the overall time that they are infectious is 6/(6+10) = 0.375. To implement this into our risk assessment framework, we set $J(c)$ to be the number of live pigs successfully passing inspection and entering each cell c , and is calculated as follows:

$$
J(c) \sim Bin(I(c), p_D),
$$

where $I(c)$ is the number of infected animals entering cell c prior to any inspection (as per the main text) and p_D is the probability of detecting infection in each pig.

Results

The results for the scenario analysis for the legal trade of live pig pathway, in which we assume that there is a probability of detection of 0.375, are presented in [Figure 5](#page-18-0). The implementation of detection results in approximately the same number of farms across Europe with non-negligible risk (a decrease of 0.2% in the number of farms). The farm with the maximum probability of infection in pigs in the baseline scenario is 0.652 whereas in the scenario it has a probability of infection of 0.482, a reduction of 26%. The mean probability of infection on a farm is 0.023 in the baseline results whereas it is 0.018 in the scenario, a reduction of 22%. Furthermore, some farms do not experience any reduction in risk. Therefore, there is a non-linear relationship between the probability of detection and the probability of infection on a farm, such that the probability of detection needs to be higher than the desired reduction in risk on a farm, although it does seem to reduce the risk most for the highest risk farms.

Figure 5 The probability of at least one infection of ASFV in pigs in 2019 from trade of live pigs at a farm level assuming a probability of detection of 0.375. In (A) all of Europe is plotted while in (B) the map is zoomed in to the dotted rectangle in (A) and in (C) the map is zoomed in to the dashed rectangle in (A). All farms indicated by a circle imported at least one infected animal in at least one simulation and the color indicates the probability that one or more susceptible pigs became infected. Countries in grey have insufficient data to complete the risk assessment. All farms in the regions with negligible risk either did not import any pigs or did not import any infected pigs. © EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries

Sensitivity Analysis

Methods

Due to the most uncertainty appearing in the legal trade of food pathway, and since uncertainty in the legal trade of animals and movement of wild boar pathways was explored in Taylor et al. (2019a) and Taylor et al. (2019b) respectively, we consider only parameters in the food pathway in the sensitivity analysis. The parameters we consider and their values within the sensitivity analysis are provided in [Table](#page-19-0) *10*. We do not explore all parameters in this pathway but focus on those which are most uncertain.

Table 10 The parameters we explore in the sensitivity analysis along with their original value in the baseline results and the value used in the sensitivity analysis.

We calculate the probability of at least one infection in boar and pigs in each 100km² cell similar to the baseline results. We then compare the results using the changed parameters with the baseline results to analyse which parameters the food pathway is most sensitive to. The maps are the best way to get a good overview of the effect of the uncertain parameters on the model, and so these are provided in Supplementary Info S2. However, in order to compare across parameters to see which the model is most senstive to, we use two metrics. We focus on the cells which we define to be a hotspot in order to see how much the model affects this aspect of the results. We set a relatively low bound for the definition of a hotspot – a probability of infection of >0.02 for wild boar and a probability of infection of >0.0001 for pigs. Our first metric is the number of hotspot cells that exist

across Europe while the second the is the distribution of the probability of infection for hotspot cells in Europe, both calculated separately for boar and pigs.

Additional Results

We provide for further clarification the maps of the 5 sensitivity analysis for the food pathway.

Figure 6 The probability of at least one infection of ASFV in 2019 in (A) wild boar and (B) pigs, via trade in legal pig meat products, plotted at a 100km² cell level across Europe for sensitivity WA - duration of waste is increased from 1 day to 7 days. Countries in grey have insufficient data to complete the risk assessment.

Figure 7 The probability of at least one infection of ASFV in 2019 in (A) wild boar and (B) pigs, via trade in legal pig meat products, plotted at a 100km² cell level across Europe for sensitivity WP – the proportion of meat products that go to waste in a household or restaurant is increased. Countries in grey have insufficient data to complete the risk assessment.

Figure 8 The probability of at least one infection of ASFV in 2019 in (A) wild boar and (B) pigs, via trade in legal pig meat products, plotted at a 100km² cell level across Europe for sensitivity SF - the probability of illegal swill-feeding on a backyard farm is increased from 0.14 to 0.22. Countries in grey have insufficient data to complete the risk assessment.

Figure 9 The probability of at least one infection of ASFV in 2019 in (A) wild boar and (B) pigs, via trade in legal pig meat products, plotted at a 100km² cell level across Europe for sensitivity BA – the probability that boar are able to access a waste site is increased from 0.1 to 0.2. Countries in grey have insufficient data to complete the risk assessment.

Figure 10 The probability of at least one infection of ASFV in 2019 in (A) wild boar and (B) pigs, via trade in legal pig meat products, plotted at a 100km² cell level across Europe for sensitivity FC – the probability that food is not cooked sufficiently to kill the virus is increased from 0.2 to 0.32. Countries in grey have insufficient data to complete the risk assessment.

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