

Serology for KHV surveillance

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20th Annual Finfish diseases NRL workshop



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Why serology for KHVD (CyHV-3) ?

- PCR most appropriate for clinical diagnostics
- But less so for surveillance (sub clinical) -
- Persistence/latency
- Low levels of virus
- Irregular distribution
- Poor growth in cell culture



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Development of a KHV Elisa

Reactivation of koi herpesvirus infections in common carp *Cyprinus carpio*

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An Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for Detection of Antibodies to the Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) in the Serum of Koi *Cyprinus carpio*

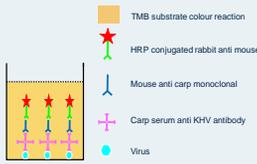
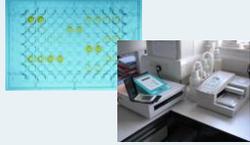
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KHV Elisa

- Used pooled positive and negative controls
- Sample considered positive if: OD reading of 1/1600 dilution > av. neg control + 3 SD



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Development of KHV Elisa

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REACTIVATION OF KOI HERPESVIRUS INFECTIONS IN COMMON CARP

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Reactivation of koi herpesvirus infections in common carp *Cyprinus carpio*

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- Study on persistence, reactivation and transmission
- 10-25% surviving fish had antibodies to KHV



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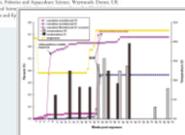
Antibody response

- Assessment of seroprevalence over time
- Seropositivity in 20-60% experimentally infected fish
- Still detectable at 7 months
- Observed at non permissive temperatures

Antibody response of two populations of common carp, *Cyprinus carpio* L., exposed to koi herpesvirus

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- Tested and observed cross reactivity with CyHV-1 (carp pox) positive experimental sera samples from USA group at low dilutions (1/200, 1/400)



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Further test optimization, validation and a serological survey

- Optimisation of coating antigen, primary and secondary (conjugated) detecting antibodies.
- Pooled +ve and -ve controls in duplicate per plate.
- Assay validity thresholds determined – Mean absorbance of +ve > 0.466 and < 0.731: Mean absorbance of -ve > 0.006 and < 0.103.
- Tests on serum samples from carp experimentally infected with CyHV-1 (cross reaction threshold 1/400).
- Assay and operator repeatability tests performed within lab and externally.
- 809 samples tested from sites with known history of presence or absence of KHV and or carp pox.



Further test optimization, validation and a serological survey

- Change from use of a specific OD value to sample to positive (S/P) ratio for better diagnostic performance
- High +ve/-ve cut-off - S/P 13.67% - D-Sp 98%; D-Sn 72%
- Low +ve/-ve cut-off - S/P 6.02% - D-Sp 90%; D-Sn 80%
- With D-Sn in the range of 72-80% the assay was acceptable at the population level.
- With the listing of KHV under 2006/88/EC and implementation in UK law in 2007, the elisa was used in a survey to establish the geographic distribution and prevalence of KHV in English and Welsh farms and fisheries, undertaken in 2007, to assess options for categorisation and control.



Serological survey

- 30 fish samples were taken from:
- 82 farm sites, 71 "high risk" fisheries and 12 consignments of imported koi from SE Asia countries

Farms sampled	Positive farms	Fisheries sampled	Positive fisheries
South West	2 (11%)	6	3 (47%)
South	1 (5%)	6	0
Thames	0	10	3 (30%)
Anglian	0	14	4 (29%)
Midlands	0	10	6 (60%)
Wales	1 (5%)	5	2 (40%)
North West	2 (10%)	11	7 (64%)
North East	2 (10%)	5	1 (20%)
Total	3 (4%)	71	26 (37%)



CTL - Commercially offered KHV antibody elisa test

10% of population or 30 fish samples recommended

Year	No. populations +ve / no. tested	Total No fish tested
2007-2008	19/29	505
2008-2009	16/22	1604
2009-2010	12/27	914
2010-2011	9/16	1420
2011-2012	8/14	212
2012-2013	0/2	121



Issues of KHV Elisa

- Known cross reaction with CyHV-1 (carp pox) at 1/200 and 1/400 dilutions.
- Hence 1/1600 working dilution.
- Increased dilution leads to reduced sensitivity
- Likely cross reaction with other herpesviruses such as:
 - KHV variants (95-98% id).
 - Other herpesviruses (<95% identity) of which 5 identified between 2000 and 2014. AngHV-1



Potential improvements - ongoing

- Use of alternative antigens specific to CyHV-3 to reduce CyHV-1 cross reaction:
 - Wasa et al., University of Stirling. Synthetic peptide synORF84 (capsid protein)
 - Recombinant proteins to rORF62 (OTU-like cysteine protease domain) and rORF68 (myosin related)
 - % positive responders to rORF62 and 68 (95% and 90%) was higher than synORF84 (76%) but synORF84 more specific in cross reactivity with CyHV-1.
- Kattlun et al., University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna
 - pORF81 DNA vaccine (potential major envelope protein)
 - Transcription confirmed but no antibody response detected in sera of vaccinated fish - not antigenic or below detection level.



Potential improvements - ongoing

- synORF84 more specific for CyHV-3 but not as sensitive - background issues with coating.
- Potential for use of cocktails of specific antigens.
- Attempts ongoing to reduce background noise

Potential improvements

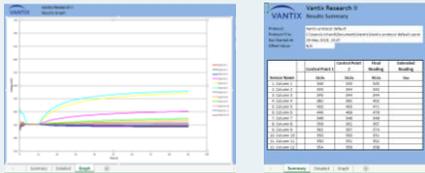
Investigating alternative methodologies - Vantix system

The image shows the Vantix system components, including a handheld device and a multi-well plate reader. To the right is a snippet from the *Journal of Immunological Methods* (2015) 478:141-146, titled 'Low cost, disposable biosensors allow detection of antibodies with results equivalent to ELISA in 15 min' by Jennifer Cook, Rebecca M. Jones, James Langley et al.

- Electrochemical sensor measures potential rather than colour change
- Reported advantages of speed, sensitivity, complex samples (blood).

Potential improvements

15-20 minutes vs 3.5 hour



Summary

- KHV antibody elisa developed and optimised and subjected to relatively thorough validation.
- Suitable for population level assessment
- Used to good effect in control policies in E&W
- More we find out about additional herpesviruses more improvement and re-validation required.
- Obtaining or generating reference antisera not always easy (non culturable)