



New Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS) virus subtype in Europe



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Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia virus (VHSV)

Negative ssRNA virus with a linear genome of about 11 kb

The genome encoded six proteins.





- It has been found in more than 90 fish species
- Virulence to different hosts seems to be related to genotype



Continental Europe rainbow trout

Great Lakes 2005-2008

Freshwater drum, Muskellunge, round goby, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie, etc

(28 species fresh water fish)

North Pacific Ocean

Coho salmon, Bastard halibut (Olive flounder), Pacific sardine, Atlantic salmon, etc



The case



- In 2015 VHSV was isolated from lumpfish in Icelandic waters
- The first time that a notifiable viral fish disease is diagnosed in Iceland
- First time that VHSV is found in lumpfish







Genetic structure of lumpfish

- Three genetically distinct populations of lumpfish in North Atlantic:
 - 1) Maine–Canada– Greenland (NW)
 - 2) Iceland- Norway (NE)
 - 3) Baltic Sea
- East Greenland might constitute a potential barrier for a gene flow between the east and west clusters



Figure 1. Sampling location of lumpfish C. lumpus across the North Atlantic. Numbers refer to sample number in Table 1.



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Icelandic isolate

- Verified by the EURL for fish diseases
- Pathogenicity trials in lumpfish, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon
- Risk assessment use of lumpfish as cleaner fish in the salmon industry

- Genetic characterization of new isolate:
 - Sequences from the whole G,
 N and NV genes were obtained
 - Phylogenetic analysis including all public available data for the N, and NV-genes
 - Phylogenetic analysis restricted to 220 isolates for the G-gene



Single gene analyses – N and NV genes







Icelandic VHSV isolate is part of genotype IV

But it does not belong to any of the recognized genotype IV subgroups

Propose the creation of subgroup IVd

MSN combined dataset



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Conclusions

- Icelandic isolate is part of genotype IV but not within the recognized genotype IV subgroups
- A new subgroup IVd is proposed
- First time than genotype IV is found in Europe
- Subgroup IVd is more similar to subgroup IVc from the Atlantic coast of Canada, but:
 - Taxon sampling for IVb and IVc needs to be improved
 - Explore further the incongruence in phylogenetic signal between N and G genes
- Assessment of phylogenetic incongruence among VHSV genes
 - Is this a general problem or is restricted to the Icelandic isolate?







Thank you