

Animal Health Research Institute, Doki Giza, Egypt.  
Dept. of Poultry Diseases.

## **INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE IN DUCKS** (With 3 Tables and 13 Figures)

By  
**AHLAM. A. FARGHALI and A. SAMY\***

\*; Fac. Vet. Med., Cairo University  
(Received at 30/9/2001)

**مرض الجمبورو في البط**

**أحلام عبد الحميد فرغلي ، عطية سامي**

تم فحص عدد ٢٠٠ عينة سريم بط ووجد ٢٠% إيجابي باختبار الترسيب. تم عزل ١١ عترة إيجابي باختبار الترسيب وتم تميز المعزولات في أجهه البيض والزرع التسميحي الخلايا الفيروبيلاست خلايا الفيرو. ووجدت تغيرات وتم التأكيد باختبار التعادل لتلاثة معزولات والتأكد الكيمياتي بمقاومة الأثير والكلوروفورم درجة حرارة ٥٦°م واختبار التلازن لكرات الدم من أنواع مختلفة من الحيوانات والطيور. تم عدوى بط وبدارى تسمين بأحد العترات ووضع معهم بدارى وبط بالترتيب وتم الذبح عند ٤، ٧، ١٥ يوم وتم عمل الصفة التشريحية والتأكد من الفيروس في السريم والاحشاء واختبارات السدم المختلفة والهستوباثولوجي والإختبار الإشعاعي.

### **SUMMARY**

Two hundred serum samples were examined by agar-gel precipitation test and 20% were positive. Eleven isolate were obtained by agar gel precipitation test. Virus gave cytopathic effect (CPE) in chicken embryo fibroblast and verocell and change in embryonated chicken eggs. Four strains of virus were characterised by heat stability, chloroform, ether, heam agglutination resistance and three of them were used in neutralization test. One virus; inoculated in chicks group of chicks and duckling put with them and inoculated induckling and chicks put with them. Agargel precipitation used for expermented serum and organ (bursas, spleens, kidneys, livers) and also immuno flourscent. Heamatology and histopathology were done.

*Key words: Infectious bursal disease in ducks.*

## INTRODUCTION

Natural and experimental infection with infectious bursal disease (IBD) virus has been reported to occur in turkey (Weisman and Hitchner, 1978) and Quail (Weisman and Hitchner 1978; Hamouda *et al.*, 1997; Ahlam and Sabry, 2000) village weaver (Nawathe *et al.*, 1978 and Codon bleu (Nawathe *et al.*, 1978) as well as chicken. The deaths of English sparrows in a form during an out break of IBD were reported (Ed Gar and Cho, 1965) but not confirmed data were presented. IB were isolated from pigeon (Farghali *et al.*, 2000). IBD virus has been isolated from faeces of healthy ducks and was shown to be serotype 4 (McFerran *et al.*, 1980) but the pathogenicity and antibody response to the virus is not well documented. Yamadi *et al.* (1982) experiment inoculation of IBDV in ducks, only antibody response were recorded, the level increased after two weeks no post mortem lesion, histopathological change or trial of reisolation.

Christopher (1982) reported antibody responses to inoculation of ducks with infectious disease (IBD) virus. Eddy, (1990) study the antibody responses of ducks following experimental inoculation with IBD virus using either the chicken virus serotypes I and turkey isolate (serotype II) the titer was the highest in the first group and the highest titre was at 5 weeks.

Zhouzongan *et al.* (1998) made trial for isolation of IBDV in ducks, geese and sparrows. Two isolates of IBDV were obtained from ducks and sparrows. IBDV virus caused specific effect in chicken embryo fibroblasts and the isolate was pathogenic to specific pathogen free (SPF) chickens. Analysis of RNA and structural proteins of IBDV by SDS-PAGE indicated that all IBDVs isolates consisted of ds RNA and there was no significant difference of RNA migration rates in agarose gels among the different. The two isolates were identified as IBDV serotype I. It is suggested that chickens are not the only natural reservoir of IBDV.

## MATERIAL and METHODS

### 1- Virus detection:

25 bursas from duckling were homogenized and diluted with Mem 1:1 and used for agarose gel against reference serum (Dr. Attia, virological section professor of virology veterinary medicine Cairo

University). For virus isolation (organ diluted 1:10) in chicken embryo and tissue culture CEF<sub>1</sub>.

**2- Virus Isolation:**

This was done in do day-old embryonated chicken egg by chorion allantoic membrane (CAM) inoculation at ten days as well as in chicken embryo fibroblast cellculture and vero using tissue homogenet as inocula; 3 blind passages were carried out.

**3- Agar gel precipitation antibodies:**

Precipitating antibodies against IBD were detected by immune diffusion test according to the method described by Anon (1977) 1.2% agarose dissolved in phosphate buffer saline (PBS) 8.5% sodium was poured in petridishes. After solidification wells were cut. The known reference serum were put in centre are surrounded by antigen to be tested and the opposite were done by sera. The petridishes were put in incubation in humid chamber and examined during 3 day for the presence of specific lines.

**Sera:** two hundred and sixteen serum samples were examined against reference antigen (which was kindly provided by D.M. sabry) Egytic company by agar gel precipitation test.

**4- Thermostability test:**

Isolates in the form of tissue culture subgeated to 3 cytes of freezing and thawing and centrifuged and distributed into tubes (1 ml per tube), incubated in water bath at 56 for 5, 10, 15, 30, 60 minutes and samples were checked for infectivity by tissue culture inoculation.

**5- Sensitivity to ether and chloroform:**

Ether sensitivity was carried out according to the method by Andrews and Horstman (1949). Chloroform sensitivity technique was carried out according to the method described by Fieldman and Wong (1961).

**6- Heam agglutination activity:**

The isolate were tested for IIA activity against chicken, mice rat, gainea pig. Sheep erethrocytes according to Anon (1977).

**7- Neutralization test:**

Serial ten fold dilution of antigen and constant amount of titrated reference serum 0.05 ml of vero added to each plate, the plates were incubated at 37°C incubator for 3 days was checked daily for neutralization indexes.

**8- Pathogenicity:**

Group of duckling were inoculated intra oculaorly with one isolate and chicken put with them and group of chicken in oculated

intraocularly with the same isolate and duck put with them. The third group were kept as control. Bird sacrificed from each group at 4, 7, 15 days after inoculation. Post mortem, haematology, virus detection were carried in agar gel precipitation on serum samples and organs (Bursas, Spleens Kidneys, livers).

Tissues from the same organ fixed in 40% aqueous formalin embedded in paraffin sectioned and stand with H and E and immunofluorescent.

**Fluorescent conjugated anti chicken gamma globulin:**

For use of indirect fluorescent antibody technique conjugated normal chicken gamma globulin was provided by Animal Health institute (Tumour section) Dokki Cairo.

**9- Preparation of slides fixation and staining:**

Paraffin slides were prepared from experimentally infected ducks and chickens (bursas, livers spleens and kidneys).

The smears were mounted with hyperimmune sera and inoculated in moist chamber at 37°C for 30-45 minutes slides were gently washed 3 times in PBs (pH 7.2) dried and mounted with conjugated gamma globulin and incubated again in moist chamber at 37°C for 30-45 minutes. The proposed slides were washed three times in PBs dried and carried with 3% Evan's blue stain.

**RESULTS**

Two hundred (200) sera of duckling were examined by Agar gel precipitation test (40) 20% were positive.

**Virus isolation:**

Eleven from twenty seven were positive for agar gel precipitation test (three of them showing reddness) virus gave cytopathic effect in chicken embryo fibroblast and vero round Fig. (4), cell aggregation Fig. (5), cell nesting in two cases and necrotising changes Fig. (8) in the third day. Oedema of eye, ingorgment of blood vessels of legs, parpoiled heart dwarfed in embryo and four of them were taken and characterised.

**Table 1:** Sensitivity to Ether and chloroform.

Isolate	Titer of isolate		
	Before	Ether	Chloroform
GB	4,7,2	5.5	5.5
4	5.5	5.5	5.5
5	5.5	5.5	6.2
11	5.5	6.5	6.5

**Termostability:**

Virus are stable from 1 hour.

**Haemagglutination:**

Isolates did not haemagglutination activity against chicken, mice, rat, guinea pig and sheep erythrocytes.

**Neutralization index: Table 2.**

Virus	Neutralization index
4	1-8
5	2-7
GB	2

**Pathogenicity:**

Diarrhea appear in duckling and chicken after four days and redness in bursa, haemorrhage thigh, (Fig. 2) liver streaked with haemorrhage (Fig. 1), kidney increases size and that appear (Fig. 3).

**Table 3.**

Organ Lesion	4 day			7 day			15 days		
	Duck	Chicken	Ino./chick	duck	chicken	ino./chick	duck	chicken	ino./chick
Liver	3/3	2/4	3/4	1/3	4/4	4/4	1/2	-	4/4
Bursa	-	-	3/4	1/3	-	-	1/2	1/4	1/4
Kidney	2/3	2/4	1/4	2/3	3/4	3/4	2/2	4/4	-
Spleen	-	2/4	-	-	1/4	1/4	-	1/4	-
Diarrhea	-	1/4	1/4	-	1/4	-	-	-	1/4
Haemorrhage in thigh	-	1/4	1/4	1/3	3/4	2/4	-	3/4	3/4

Agar gel precipitation of serum 2/4 in inoculated chicken after 7 day and 4/4 after 15 day and chicken incubated with infected ducks showed 2/4 positive for agar gel and 1/4 after 24 days.

Organ showed positive for agar gel precipitation test bursa of both chick and

**after 4 days:**

- 1/4 infected chicken bursa
- 1/4 infected chick spleen
- 1/4 infected chicken liver

**after 7 days:**

- 1/3 infected ducks bursa chicken put with them 3/4 bursa
- 2/3 infected ducks kidney chicken put with them 2/4 spleen
- 1/3 infected ducks spleen chicken put with them 1/4 liver

**after 15 day:**

½ infected duck kidney  
½ infected duck liver  
and chicken put with them 2/4 bursa

**Immuno fluorescent:**

Bursa spleen was positive at seven days in both infected chicks and duck and chick put with them after 15 day infected chick spleen kidney and ducks and only bursa of chick put with them Fig., (3,7).

**Heamatology:**

PCV is higher in infected duck at 7 day and slightly higher at 15 day heamoglobin only decreased after 15 days.

PCV increased in infected ducks after 15 days but heamoglobin decreased in infected chicken after 15 days.

Decreases in white blood corpuscle in infected chicken and also red blood corpuscle.

**Histopathology:**

After 4 days liver showing congestion, fatty change, spleen showed increased in lamina of splenic artery Fig., (13).

After 7 days bursa showed lymphocytic depletion increase inter follicular lymphocytic Fig., (8) subcapsular oedema Fig., (2) in bursas, liver show slightly congestion and kidney showed hyalinization and degeneration changes and lymphocytic depletion in infected bird Fig., (11).

After 15 day bursa showed no changes except cell wall increased in size but kidney still show degeneration in distal convoluted tubule and chicken put with them infected duck showed kidney congestion glomerular cell flattened and liver showed fatty degenerative change Fig., (9, 10) bursa showed lymphocytic depletion of cell 30%, subcapsular oedema, oedema in centre of follicle and spleen showed lymphocytic depletion.

**DISCUSSION**

Serum sample indicate 20% positive this indicate high result did not recorded before. Result for agar gel precipitation test against reference serum eleven isolate, trial for virus isolation from ducks were triald but only McFeran *et al.*, 1980 and Zhou Zongan *et al.* (1998) succeed to isolate two isolate. Trial for isolation in chicken embryo fibroblast which give cytopathic effect were recoded by the same authors, we use vero cell and characterisation by heat stability.

chloroform (Fieldman and Wong 1961), Ether (Andrews and Horstmen, 1949) and neutralization test.

Experimental infection was done in duckling and chicken that showed diarrhea and hemorrhage in thigh, liver streaked with haemorrhages, kidney enlarged and bursa reddened 4 and 7 days (Yamada *et al.*, 1982) did not record no pathognomic lesion. Experimental infection used in traocularly, histopathologic lesion was like those in chicks turkeys and quails and pigeon (Fraghli *et al.*, 1989, Fraghli and Sabry 2000, Fraghli *et al.*, 2000) organs were positive for Agar gel precipitation at 1, 7, 15 days and Fa were positive at 4 – 7 and 15 days and thus agree with precipitating antibody appear at 7, 15 day in chicken infected with duck isolate or put with infected duck and this agree with Bastami 1980; Ahlam 1989, while serum did not show antibody until 2 weeks and that did not agree with Yamada 1982, Eddy 1990.

Haemoglobin were decrease in infected chicks and thus agree with Mohamed 1983.

From this result gumboro disease was reported in ducks and play a role in distribution of virus to chicken.

#### REFERENCES

- Ahlam A.A.; Agag, Assia Elsawy, I. M. Sokar (1998): Evidence of IBDV infection in turkey and chickens Benisuef, Vet. Med. R. Vol N 11 No. 2.
- Ahlam A. Farghali (1989): Infectious bursal disease in chicken and turkey. Ph. B. Vet. M. Assiut Univ.
- Ahlam A. Farghaly; M.M Sabry (2000): Infectious bursal disease in Quails. Assiut. Vet. Med. J. Vol 43 No. 85. April, 304-318.
- Ahlam A. Farghaly; A. Abd EL-Raouf and Houda Amin (2000): Infectious bursal disease in pigeon and chicken. Assiut Veterinary Medical Journal. Vol 43 No. 85. April, 354-373.
- Allan, G.M., McNulty, M.S.; Connor, T.J.; McCracken, R.M.; Meferran, J.B. (1984): Rapid diagnosis of infectious bursal disease infections by immuno fluorescence on clinical material. Avian pathology 13 (5): 419-427.
- Andrews C.H and Horstman D.M. (1949): The susceptibility of virus to ethylether. Microbiology 4, 3: 290-297.
- Anon (1977): Methods of examination of poultry biologic for identification quantifying avian pathogen, National Academy of Science Washington D.C.
- Barnes, H.J., Wheelock, J. and Reed, D. (1982): Avian Dis. 26. 560.

- Bastami, M.A. (1980):* Studies on gumboro diseases in poultry and its relation to vaccination against some poultry disease. These is Phe. D. Dep. of Vet. Med. Cairo Univ.
- Chettle, N.J. Eddy, R.K and Wyeth. P. J. (1985):* British Veterinary Journal, 141, 147.
- Christopher, K.J (1982):* Veterinorinarski Archiv 52, 189. Gianbrone, J.J, Fletcher, O, Lukert, P.B., Page, R.K. and Eidsone, E. (1978): Avian Disease 22,451.
- Edgar, O.S.A., and Y. Cho. (1965):* Avian nephrosis (Gumboro Disease) and its control by immunization. Poult. Sci. 44,1366.
- Eddy, R.K. (1990):* Antibody responses to infectious bursal disease virus serotype 1 and 2 in ducks, Vet. Record 127-382.
- Fieldman of Stephon Wong, D.S. (1961):* Sensitivity of various viruses to chloroform. Proc. Sci. exp. Biol. 106-136.
- Hamauda, M.S.M, Abdedaim, M.M; Nafie,E.K; Eltraluli, M.A.M, Enany, M.F and Afaf Amin (1997):* The role of migratory birds in the transmission of some viral diseases. Binsuef Vet. Med. Res. Vol 16 No. (2).
- Jack Wood, D.J., Sav, Y.M., Moorhead, P.O. and Dearth, R.N. (1982):* Avian Diseases 26, 365.
- McFerran, J.B. McNulty, M.S, Mckillop, E.R, Connor, T.J, McCracken, R.M. Collins. D.S & Allan G.M. (1980):* Avian Pathology 9-395.
- Mohamed, A.T. (1983):* A study the pathogenesis of gumbore diseases in experminaly infected chicks, PhD. Path.Dep. Vet. Med. Cairo Univ.
- McNulty M.S. All en. G.M McFerran (1979):* Avian pathology 8, 205.
- Nawothe, D.R; Onunkwo, O.; and smith I.M (1978):* An outbreak of infectious bursal disease chickes in Nigeria. Vet.Record 97,433.
- Perlemanan, B. and Heller. E.D. (1981)* Ref uah Veternararüh 38-12.
- Yamada, S., Matsuo, K. and Uchinuno, Y. (1982):* Avian Dis 26, N 3 596,
- Zhouzo, NGAN, Wang Yowsaan; Deng x Laoch Ao; Dlad Zheny Gaojian. Sni Chenglang., Luo hanlu; Fang Yuan (1998):* Survey on the ecology and epidemilogy of infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV): Chinase Journal of Veterinary science 18 (5): 430-433.

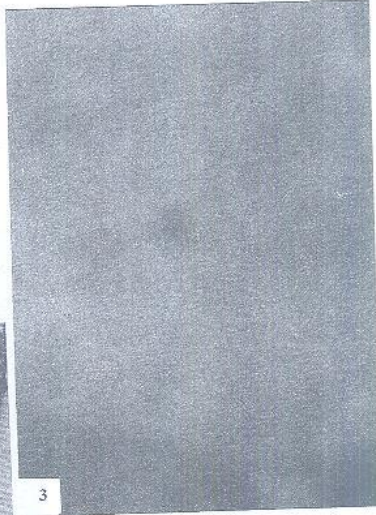




Duck showin liver  
streaked with heamorrhage.



Thigh streaked with heamorrhage  
with in larged kidney



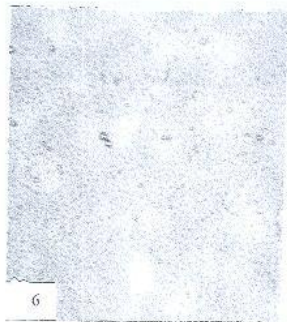
Flouroscead in tissue



Cell showing rounding



Cell showing aggregation



Cell showing necrotic change

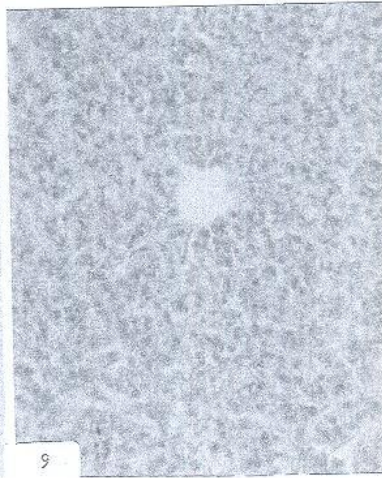


Fluorescent antibody



8

Bursa showing lymphocytic depletion (10 x H&E)



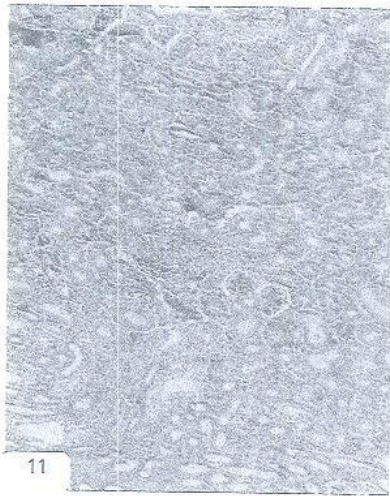
9

Liver showing fatty degeneration (40 x H&E)



10

Fatty change in liver (10 x H&E)



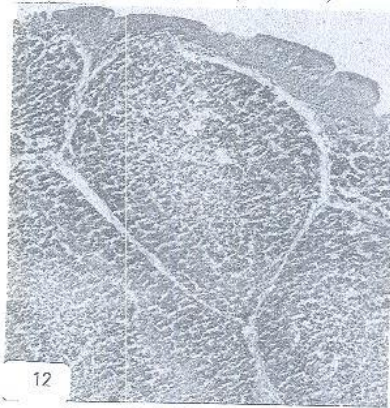
11

Kidney showing all infeltration and cangestion (10 x H&E)



13

spleen with thickened artery after 7 day ( x H&E)



12

Bursa of infed chicking showing depletion and oedema (10 x H&E)