

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

## **INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE IN PIGEON AND CHICKEN**

(With 3 Tables and 16 Figures)

By

**AHLAM A. FARGHALY; A. ABD EL RAOUF  
and HOUDA AMIN**

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مرض التهاب الغدة الفابريسية  
في الحمام والدجاج

أحلام عبد الحميد فرغلي ، أسامة عبد الرؤوف ، هدى أمين

تم عزل فيروسين من الحمام والتأكد منهم بالاختبارات المختلفة وتم استعمالهم في عدوى كل من الحمام والدجاج واستخدم الاختبار الترسيبي والاختبار المناعي المشع والاختبار البيروكسيداز والمناعي للتأكد من وجود الأنتيجين في الأنسجة . تم عمل فحص الدم وكذا الهستوباثولوجي كما تم عمل الـ Dott ELISA على السيرم.

### **SUMMARY**

Two infectious bursal disease viral isolate were isolated from pigeon characterised and used experimentally to infect both chickens and pigeons. Agar gel precipitation immunofluorescence and immunoperoxidase tests were used for detection of antigen in 38 tissues. Heamatological and histopathological picture were described. Dott ELISA was used for detection of antibody in sera in 96 serum sample.

*Key words: Infectious bursal disease in pigeon and chicken*

## INTRODUCTION

Infectious bursal disease (IBD) is either acute contagious viral disease or with subclinical course.

Allan *et al.* (1973) and Gaimborne (1978) reported on an experimental infection in Turkey with sterotype 1 IBD virus. The existence sterotype infects both Turkeys and chickens was firstly recorded by McFerran *et al.* (1980).

Natural infection of ducks has been recorded by Mc Nulty *et al.* 1979 and McFerran *et al.* 1980. Experimental infection of ducks, revealed their resistance to infection. McFerran *et al.*, 1980; Yamado *et al.*, 1982; Eddy., 1990; Okoye *et al.*, 1990 and Khafagy *et al.* (1995).

Vindvogol (1979) and Fritzsche *et al.*, 1981 stated that pigeons resistant to IBD. Yamada *et al.* (1982) failed to induce clinical sings in SPF ducks inoculated with IBDV of chicken origin and the inoculated ducks respond only by developing neutralizing and precipitating antibodies.

Vindvogol (1979) failed to infect 4-week-old pigeons with IBDV from chickens. The viral antigen could not be detected in bursa and the serological tests were negative. Natural infections of turkeys and ducks have been recorded basing on serologic evidence and isolation of IBDV from these species Page *et al.*, 1978, Mc Nalty *et al.*, 1979, Johnson *et al.*, 1980, McFerran *et al.*, 1980; Perlman and Heller, 1981).

Louzis *et al.* (1979) recorded an outbreak of natural IBD in artificially reared pheasants with mortality of 2-80%.

Hirose and Hirai (1976) found no antibodies against IBDV in egg yolk from quail, ducks, geese, bantame and pigeons. Nawothe *et al.* (1978) detected no serologic evidence of IBDV infection in turkeys guinea fowl and some wild avian species.

Ezeifeke *et al.* (1992) examined sera from wild and domestic birds for ND and IBD by HI and AGPT, ten of sera were positive for ND and only (58.3%) had antibody against IBD virus.

Maidugue *et al.* (1992) studied the prevalence of infectious bursal disease in endogenous chickens and pigeons. The auther stated that non of the pigeon sera was found positive by agar gel precipitation test.

Khaphagy *et al.* (1995) failed to induce the clinical disease in ducks and pigeons. The ducks responded serologically by developing antibodies while pigeon failed.

## **MATERIAL and METHODS**

### **Agar gel precipitation test:**

The test was carried out to the method described by Anon 1971 1.2 agarose was dissolved in phosphate buffered saline in 8.5% sodium chloride and adjusted to 7.2 pH. The medium was poured in petridishes. After solidification wells were done. The known reference antisera were put in the central well and surround by tested Anigen and the opposite were done with sera. The petridish's were put in humid chamber at 37°C and periodically examined during 3 days, for the prescence of specific lines.

### **Sera:**

Reference antiserum was kindly applied by Dr. Sabry Infectious bursal disease in pigeon and chicken.

### **Virus isolation:**

This was done in 10-day-old embryonated chicken egg by Chorio Allantoic membrane inoculation as well as in chicken embryo fibroblast cell culture, using tissue homogenate as inocula; 3 blind passages were carried out to detect IBDV.

### **Thermostability test:**

Isolates in the form of tissue cultures were subjected to 3 cycles of freezing and thawing and centrifuged, distributed in tubes of 1 ml. Per tubes, incubated in water bath at 56°C for 5, 10, 15, 30, hours, 2 hour minutes and an and two fours and samples were checked for infectivity by tissue culture inoculation.

### **Sensitivity to ether and chloroform:**

Ether sensitivity was carried out according to the method described by Andrews and horstman (1949).

Chloro form sensitivity technique used was that described by Fieldman and Wong (1961).

### **Haemagglutination activity:**

The isolates were tested for HA activity against chicken, duck, goat, rat, mice, guinea pig, and rabbit erythrocytes according to Anon (1971).

### **Neuturalizatim test:**

This was carried out in chicken embryo fibroblasts (CEF) in micrometer plates.

Reference serum was triturated (serial dilution of serum constant amount of antigen, 100 TCID<sub>50</sub>).

Serial ten fold dilutions of antigen constant amount of trituated reference serum diluted 1:10 in MEM, after 30 minutes 0.05 ml. Of CEF added each plate, the plate were incubated at 37°C in Co<sub>2</sub> incubator for 3 days, suspension was checked daily for neutralization indexes were calculated.

**Tris buffer, pH 7.8 (Ed & David, 1988):**

Tris base	6.55 gm.
Sodium chloride	11.68 gm.
* Adjust pH to 7.8 using 1 N HCl.	
Distilled water to	1 Liter.

**Dot ELISA Blocking Buffer:**

3% NFDM in Tris.

**Dot ELISA Diluting Buffer:**

0.5% NFDM in Tris containing 0.05% tween 20.

**Dot ELISA washing Buffer:**

4 Tris containing 0.05% tween 20.

**Substrate solution:**

4 - Chloro - 1 - naphthol.	30 mg.
Pure methanol.	10 mg.

\* Keep in dark brown bottles at 4°C for not more then 2 weeks.

**Experimntal design:**

Group of pigeon was inoculated with isolates and chickens were kept incontact other group of chicken and was infected pigeon were kept in contact after 24-48 hours 4, 12, 28 day 25% from each group were scarified and post mortem from lesion histopathology slids from immune phlosenscence, imumoperoxidase, electron microscope were done from kidney and bursa showing lesion. Serum examined with dott elisa.

**Indirect Immunoperoxidase test (I-IP):**

**Indirect in immunoperoxidase test (p)**

The basic technique by Hyera *et al.* (1987) was adopted with some modification.

- 1- Paraffin section slides were prepared.
- 2- The slides were overlaid with 1% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in PBS' Van Duejin (1957).
- 3- The slides were then thoroughly washed with PBS three times 5 minute each to remove the remaining H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.
- 4 - Slides were over lead in suitable volume of serum and incubated at 37% °C in humid shamber.
- 5- Slides were then washed three times with PBS 10 minute each.

- 6- Slides were again overlaid with suitable volume of antichickens peroxidase conjugate diluted as recommended in PBS and incubated at 37°C in humid chamber for hour.
- 7- The slides were washed as in step 5.
- 8- The slides were finally overlaid with substrate working solution for 20 min. to allow development of the color.
- 9- The reaction was stopped by washing with PBS.
- 10- The slides were dried and examined under ordinary light microscope. Cells showing brown coloration of cytoplasm were considered positive.

**8 - Fluorescent conjugated anti chicken gamma globulin:**

For use of indirect fluorescent antibody technique conjugated normal chicken gamma globulin was provided by Animal Health Institute (Dr Afaf. Amin).

**Preparation of slides, fixation and staining:**

Paraffin slides were prepared from experimentally infected pigeon and chickens bursas, livers, spleens, kidney, thymus, and tissue culture.

The smears were mounted with hyperimmune sera and incubated in moist chamber at 37°C for 30 - 45 minutes.

The slides were gently washed 3 times in PBS (pH7.5) 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 counterstained with 3% Evan's blue counter stain for few seconds.

After washing and drying the slides were examined in fluorescent microscope.

**Dot-immunobinding assay (Dot-ELISA):**

The technique was carried out according to (Hawkes *et al.*, 1982) for detection of bovine parvovirus antigen.

**a) Sheet preparation:**

A nitrocellulose binding filter (Gelman Sciences, Biotrace, NT) was overlaid on the top of 96-well microtitre plate, where light finger pressing was practiced on the paper giving depressions corresponding to the individual wells of the underlying plate (Handling of filter should be with gloves and forceps). The filter paper was then washed 5 minutes by gentle agitation in distilled water and left to dry at room temperature.



- b) Dotting:**  
3-5  $\mu$ l of antigen were dotted on the circular depression of the membrane filter and left to dry at room temperature to enhance the binding of viral proteins. The membrane was then washed for 5 minutes with TBS on shaker.
- c) Blocking:**  
This step was devoted for blocking non specific protein binding sites on the membrane. The membrane was immersed in blocking buffer and incubated at room temperature for 1 hour with slight shaking each 15 minutes.
- d) Primary incubation:**  
The blocked membrane was flooded with 10 ml of serum. The membrane was washed with 3 changes of washing buffer, 10 minutes interval on a rapid speed shaker (to remove unbound antibodies).
- e) Second blocking:**  
The membrane was immersed in a blocking for 15 minutes.
- f) Secondary incubation:**  
The membrane was immersed with IgG peroxidase conjugate diluted 1:500 in the blocking, then incubated at room temperature for 2 hours on a slow speed shaker.
- g) Washing:**  
The membrane was then washed for 30 minutes with 3 changes of washing buffer, 10 minutes interval on a rapid speed shaker.
- h) Development:**  
The membrane was immersed working solution and in room temperature at room temperature in a dark place. Blue dots (positive colouration) were developed within 10-15 minutes on the membrane. The enzyme reaction was stopped by washing the membrane several times under running tap water and finally with distilled water distilled water and then dried and kept in a dark place. Negative reaction showed no colour on the membrane.
- 1 - Light microscopy:**  
Tissue specimens from the bursa of fabricius, spleen, kidney, liver, thymus, thyroid and harderian glands were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin, dehydrated in ascending grades of ethyl alcohol, cleared in methyl benzoate and embedded in paraffin. Tissue sections of 5-7  $\mu$  were stained with hematoxylin and eosin for light microscopical examination.

**2- Electron microscopy:**

Sample from the bursa of Fabricius and kidneys were fixed in 5% Cacodylate buffered glutaraldehyde, post fixed in 2% osmic acid, dehydrated and embedded in epon. Semithin sections were stained with toluidine blue and the ultrathin sections were contrasted uranylacetate and lead citrate and examined with Joel EM 100 CX II at 60 kV.

12- Determination of total protein (A.O.A.C, 1990).

13- Determination of total fat content (ISO,1973).

14- Determination of total moisture content (ISO,1973).

**RESULTS**

**Isolate:** In the present work 2 isolate were obtained from pigeon which showed redness of Bursa.

Bursae was examined by Agar gel precipitation test and inoculated in embryos (CAM) showed oedema, congested blood vessels in legs and wings, liver, was pale and parboiled heart. Passage in chicken embryo fibro blasts indicating cytopathic effect (agregation and rounding of 40% cell line) started from first passage.

Showing all aggregation, rounding of 40% of cells.

Heat resistance

Isolates were resistant to 56°C for 2 hours

**Effect of chloroform and ether on virus**

Isolate	Titer of isolate		
	Before	Ether	Chloroform
2	4.75	4.75	4.75
3	6.75	6.75	6.75

**Heamagglutination:**

Isolate did not show haemagglutination with chicken, duck, mice, rat, guineapig, sheep and rabbit RBCs.

**Neutralization index**

Virus	Neutralization index
2	2.50
3	1.5

**Pathogenically:**

After 4 days of experimental infection the pigeons appeared sick, decreased in weight and showed diarrhea. On post mortum examination, the kidneys were swollen, the bursae were congested and with peticeal hemorrhages one case the spleen appeared dark in colour and of mosaic appearance.

Infected chicken showed decrease in weight and whitish diarrhea and the post mortum examination the liver were streaked with heamorhage, kidneys showed nephrosis (Fig. 16) and ureters were filled with urates bursae were slightly congested and were positive on immune peroxidase and immune fluorscence reactions.

At 12 days post infection all pigeon showed ruffled feather (Fig. 13) post mortem examination the kidney were increased in size nephrosis with peticeal heamorhage, ureter filled with urates and the Bursa were slightly increased in size and showed peticeal heamorhages.

At 28 day post infection the liver were streaked with heamorhages, kidney were enlarged. Bursal membrane exudate was noticed in one case but the peticeal hemorrhage were consistant in the other cases. The chickens put with the infected pigeon showed streaks of heamorhages on the outer surface of the thigh (Fig. 15) and the bursa were oedematous with viscid material. The infected chicken showed congested liver and peticeal heamorhage in the inner searface of the thigh. The pigeon put with them showed congested dark liver with peticeal heamorhages, purple spleen and enlarged and purple kidney. At 28 day post infection the swollen showed peticeal heamorhages swollen and bursal membrane exudate were constant finding.

Immune fluorescent (Fig. 7-9) and immune peroxidases (Fig. 6, 14) were positive for bursa spleen thymus, kidney in two and four day as from chicken and pigeon.

Bursa, thymus, spleen, kidney of pigeon and chicken are positive at 12 day.

Bursa are and thymus until 28 day also duodenum showed +ve by IP and FA. But bursa and spleen only positive by agar gel.

All serum were +ve with dot ELISA in all experimental bird except control (Fig. 11).

**Hematology:**

At 4 day white blood corpuscle and red blood corpuscle are increased in infected pigeon than control but at 12 day white rBc and red blood corpuscle are increased in control pigeon than diseased bird and



also red blood corpuscle but in chicken white blood corpusle and red blood corpuscle are increased in chicken put with diseased pigeon than control.

Infected chicken large lymphocyte are more than non infected, hetrophile also increased esonophile and basphile increased in infected bird.

In pigeo infected (Lymphocyte were less than non infected but monocyte were increased.

Hemoglobin percentage were decrease in infected pigeo and chicken.

**Experimental infection:**

**Histopathology:**

Histopathological examination of bursae revealed cystic formation and interfollicler tissue showed oedema (Fig. 6). Kidneys showed degenerative changes in the epithelium of proximal convoluted tubule (Fig. 10) hyalinization and desquamation of epith cells (Fig. 1, 2) liver showed diffuse fatty change and congestion of central vien. Spleen showed depletion of lymphocyte in the white pulp.

Thymous showed, lymphocytic showed depletion (Fig. 3) and thyroid showing heamorhages and lymphocytic infiltration (Fig. 4).

**Electron microscopy:**

Transmission of clumbing electron micrograph of bursa showed clumping of chromatin material, and cytoplasm contain the lysosome.

Table (3)

Sample No.	Protein %	Fat %	Moisture
1	18.0	4.8	74.6
2	17.6	5.1	74.5
3	18.2	5.0	74.8
4	17.5	4.8	75.0
5	18.1	5.3	74.7
6	17.4	4.9	75.8
7	18.0	4.6	74.9
8	17.2	4.9	76.0
9	17.5	4.05	74.9
10	17.8	4.6	75.4
11	17.7	4.08	76.1
12	18.6	4.5	75.4

\* 5, 6, 11, 12 non infected.  
1 - 4 infected pigeo at 4 days.  
7 - 10 infected pigeo at 12 days.

## DISCUSSION

Isolation of infectious bursal disease in pigeon made by egg inoculation through Corrio allantoic membrane (CAM) and this is the best route recorded by Hitchner (1970), two isolates were obtained, passaged in tissue culture fibroblast. Examination revealed rounding, cell aggregation, Cho *et al.* (1979) the isolates resisted chloroform and ether the virus was stable at 56 four 2 hours. Chicken, ducks, sheep, mice, rat, rabbit and guinea pig erythrocytes were not agglutinated with virus and this agrees with Ahlam (1989) Zanati (1982) and Onunkwo (1975) and Mousa (1986).

Pigeon infected intra ocularly after Cheville 1967 pigeon showed clinical manifestation. The clinical symptoms were watery whitish diarrhea and ruffled feathers, similar symptoms were reported in chicken by Casgrove (1962), Ahlam (1989) by Mousa and Bayoumi, 1984.

The post mortem lesion included hemorrhagic streaks on outer surface of the thigh and shank. Liver showed diffuse subcapsular redened areas, kidney were swollen and occasionally showed petechial hemorrhages and ureters were filled with urates. The bursa of Fabricius was oedematous and inner surface revealed petechial hemorrhages and this lesion was recorded by Mohamed (1983) in addition petechial hemorrhages were observed by Lensing (1969).

The virus was detected IFA from bursa and kidney thymus at 2, 4, 12 and 28 days. Valde's *et al.* detected virus kidney and bursa 2 days in bursa until 10 days. Astruball and Gialletti (1971) observed fluorescence from 36-240 hours in spleen and 48-72 hours in liver. Fadly and Nazerian (1983) detected the virus by FA at bursa at 1-4 days spleen at 1-2 days Muller *et al.* (1979) used immune fluorescence to monitor the early virus propagation after oral infection IBDV was first detected 4 hours PI in macrophages and lymphoid cells of the duodenum and one hour later in similar areas of the duodenum and jejunum. Virus passed to the liver and was phagocytised by Kupfer cells, which showed fluorescence five hours later. From the liver the virus reached the bursa where massive replication took place and specific fluorescence was detected from 11 hours after infection.

Ide (1975) revealed that bursa were positive for FA 5 to 6 days.

Immune peroxidases IP method are based on the use of horse redish peroxidases as marker to visualize antigen sat in cellular levels in the variety of specimens including monolayer cell smears, imprints, etospins, cryostat section and even paraffin section.

IBD lesions were positive cells were numerous and present in cortex and medulla of many follicles.

In this work IBD were detected in methonl fixed paraffin embed tissue sample was possitive+ 2, 4, 12, and 28 days kidney and bursa after infection. Aleksic Kovaevic et al. (1999) used the same method with paraffin embeded tissue sample virus was detected 10 days after infection. An intensive exprission of IBDV antigen. The auther record that immune histochemical reaction was veryweek 10 day after infection but in this work the reaction were positive untile 28 day in bursa showing that giving positive byagargel precipitation test.

All slide give positive result in IP give positive in FA the antigen detect by FA and immune peroxidases were more positive than agar gel precipitation test and this agree with Aleksic - Kovecer et al. (1999).

Inoue et al. (1994) recorded IBDV in Hymus at 2-7 day but here detected antil 12 day.

Hemoglobin percentage were decreased in infected pigeon and chicken. White blood corpuscle are increased in diseased case and also red blood corpuscle and thes agree with Mohamed (1983).

Infected chicken large lymphocyte are more than non. Infected, hetrophile also increased esonophile and basopil inered in infected bird. In pigeon infected (Lymphocyte were less than non infected only mocyted present in infected pigeon and these result are agree with (Mohamed, 1983 and Jantosovica et al., 1998).

Examination of serum of 4, 12, 28 days reveled positive by dott elisa, Pastami (1980) recorded the appearance of ppt antibodies 4 and increased at 10 days and decreased at 18 days by agar gel precipitation test and Ahlame recorded PP and; bodies from 4 to 10 days in Turkey infected by turkey and chicken isolate and positive on 10-21 days infected by reference.

The post mortem lesion was heamorhage in the outer surface of thigh. Kidney increased in size, congestion renal parynchema appeared this agree with Boushra (1982). Multiple focal aggregation spleen showed general depletion and loss of demarcation of the germinal center and this agree with Cheville (1967) Mohamed, 1983 and Ahlam et al. (1997).

Bursa showing lymphocytic depletion and increased inter follicular tissue and connective bands between the follicles were oedematous these reported by (Helmboldt and Garner, 1964 and Cheville, 1979; Mohamed 1983 and Ahlam *et al.*, 1997; Neeber *et al.*, 1999 and Inoue *et al.*, 1994).

Lymphoid necrosis of the thymous cortical Lymphocytic condensation and depletion in the thymous and this agree with Inoue *et al.*, 1994.

Protien, fat and moisture conten in normal and infected bird are normal.

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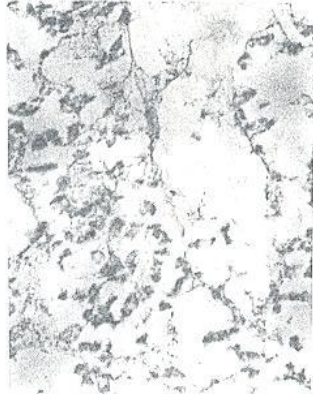
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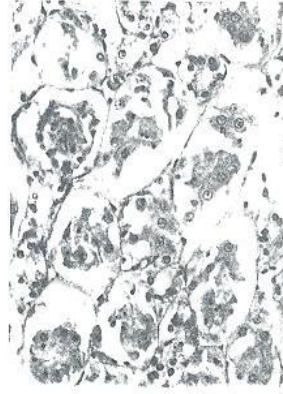
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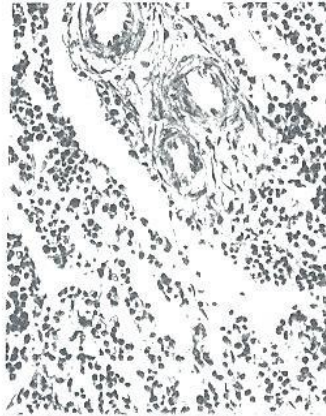
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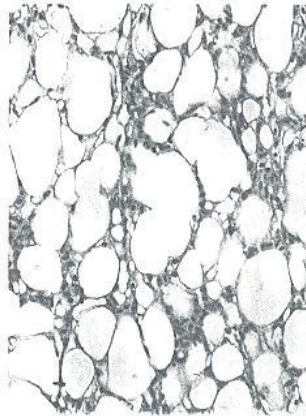
**Fig. 1: Kidney showing necrotic changes and lymphocytic infiltration (H & E 40x).**



**Fig. 2: Kidney showing desquamation and Necrotic changes (H & E 40x).**

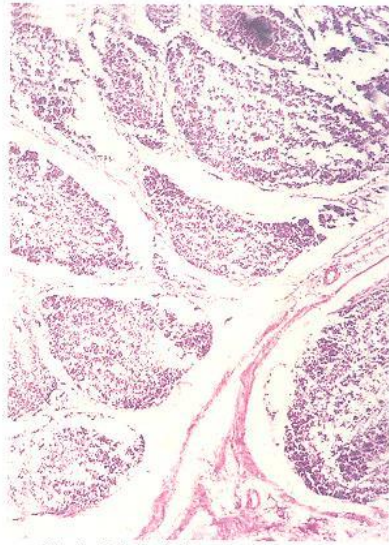


**Fig. 3: Thymous showing hemorrhage, Lymphocytic depletion (H & E 40x).**

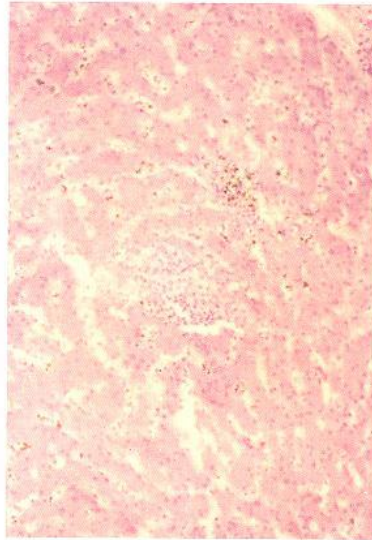


**Fig. 4: Thyroid showing hemorrhages and Lymphocytic infiltration (H & E 40x).**

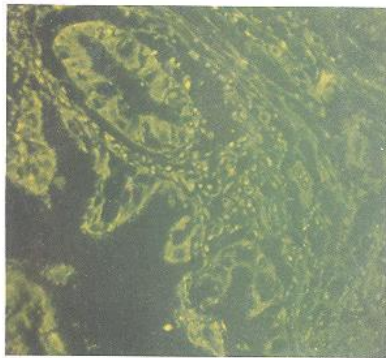




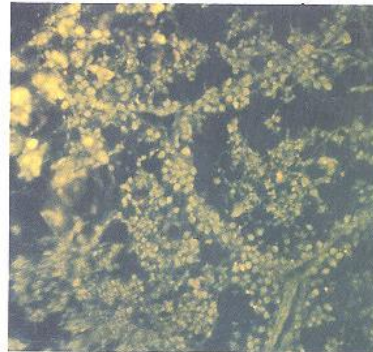
**Fig. 5: Cellular infiltration and congestion in liver (H & E 40x)**



**Fig. 6: Bursa showing lymphoid depletion and atrophy of follicular nodules.**



**Fig. 7: Kidney with immunofluorescence.**



**Fig. 8: Bursa with immunofluorescence.**



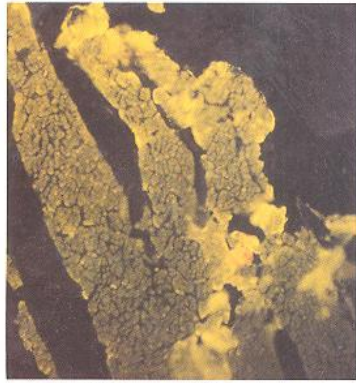


Fig. 9: Thymous with florescence.



Fig. 10: Spleen with immunoflurcense

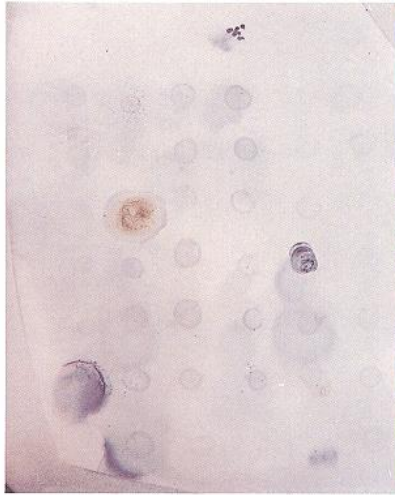


Fig. 11: Dott Elsi.

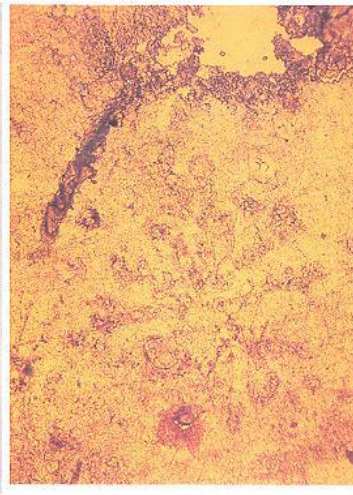


Fig. 12: Tlymous with immunobiroxidase



Fig. 13: Pigeon ruffled feather.

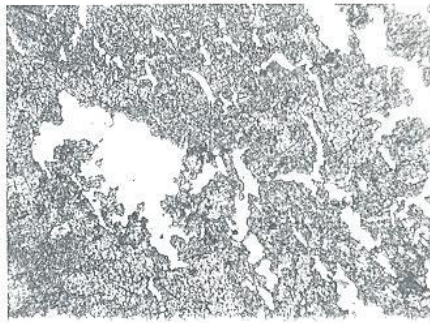


Fig. 14: Spleen with immunoperoxidase.



Fig. 15: Hemorrhage in thigh.



Fig. 16: Kidney in crease in size.