

Pasteurella multocida multocida
(*Aythya fuligula*) (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)
(*Fulica atra*) (*Aythya ferina*) (*Aythya marila*)
(*Podiceps cristatus*) (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*)

The First Report of Avian Cholera in Miankaleh Wetland, Southeast Caspian Sea

S. FERUIDOUNI^{1*}, H. MODIR-ROUSTA¹ & F. AZIN²

¹ Wildlife Diseases Research Department, Razi Research Institute, Karaj

² Ornithology Unit, Wildlife & Aquatic Organisms Bureau, Environmental Research Centre, Department of the Environment (DoE), Tehran

* Corresponding author. Email: s.fereidouni@rsvri.com

Received 31 December 2005; accepted 15 April 2006

Abstract: Avian cholera is a highly contagious disease resulting from infection by the bacterium *Pasteurella multocida*. This bacterium has affected more than 100 species of waterbirds worldwide, including swans, geese, ducks, gulls, and coots. The bacterium can kill the infected birds just in 6-12 hours, although death in 1 to 2 days is more common. *Pasteurella multocida* isolates are divided to 3 different subspecies including *Pasteurella multocida multocida*, *P. m. septica*, *P. m. gallicida*. The disease primarily occurs in winter and early spring. During these times, waterfowl are usually in dense groups on wintering areas and may be experiencing stress due to crowding and severe weather. Miankaleh is one of the most important wetlands in north of Iran. Every year, several hundred thousands to one million waterbirds migrate to this area during autumn and winter. In this study, an outbreak of waterbirds mortality in Miankaleh wetland during January 2005 was investigated. Different samples were collected from infected birds and were tested by standard bacteriological methods. Avian Cholera caused by *Pasteurella multocida* subsp. *multocida* was diagnosed. *Pasteurella multocida* was isolated and characterized from different affected species including Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Scaup *Aythya marila* and Coot *Fulica atra*. This is the first report of Avian Cholera of wild waterbirds in Iran.

Keywords: Avian Cholera, waterbirds, Miankaleh, wetland, Iran.

(Rasadi 1988; Tavasoli *et al.* 1984)

(Botzler 1991) *Pasteurella multocida*

(Friend 1992)

(Wobeser 1981)

P. m. septica *P. m. multocida*
(Mutters *et al.* 1985) *P. m. galicida*

(Rimler *et al.* 1984)

(Botzler 1991)

P. multocida

(Friend 1992)

P. multocida

(Samuel *et al.* 2003)

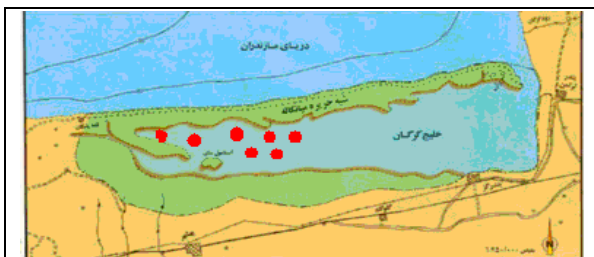


Figure 1. Sampling points in Miankaleh Wetland.

(Price & Brand 1984)

(Samuel *et al.* 1999)

(Samuel & Mensik 2005)

(Townsend et al. 1998)

SIM TSI
MR-VP

%
P. m. multocida
P. multocida

(*Podiceps cristatus*)
(*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*)
(*Phoenicopterus ruber*)
(*Aythya fuligula*)
(*Aythya marila*)
(*Fulica atra*) (*Aythya ferina*)



() ()
()

Figures 2-4. A view to dead birds, Great Grebe (top), Flamingo (middle) and Coot (bottom).

Table 1. Results of Biochemical tests for *P. multocida* in waterbirds of Miankaleh.

Biochemical tests		
Oxidase	100	
Catalase	100	
Hamolysis	0	
Growth in	0	
Nitrate	100	
Citrate	0	
MR-VP	0	MR-VP
NC/ TSI	0	TSI NC
Urease	0	
Mobility	0	
SH2 production	0	SH2
Indol	100	
Glucose	100	
Xilose	100	
Sucrose	100	
Sorbitol	100	
Manitol	100	
Dolsitol	0	
Trehalose	0	
Arabinose	0	
Maltose	5.5	

P. multocida

P. m. multocida

(Botzler 1991)

(Botzler 1991)



Figure 5. Necrotic lesions on the liver of one of dead birds in Miankaleh wetland.

REFERENCES

- Botzler, R.G. 1991. Epizootiology of Avian cholera in wildfowl. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* **27**: 367-395.
- Friend, M. 1992. Avian cholera. In: Friend, M. & Franson, J.C. (eds). *Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases: General field Procedures and Diseases of Birds*. 75-92.
- Mutters, R., Ihm, D., Pohl, S., Frederiksen, W. & Mannheim, W. 1985. Reclassification of the Genus *Pasteurella* Trevisan 1887 on the basis of Deoxyribonucleic Acid homology, with proposal for the new species *Pasteurella dagmatis*, *Pasteurella canis*, *Pasteurella stomatis*, *Pasteurella anatis* and *Pasteurella langaa*. *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* **35**: 309-322.
- Price, J.I. & Brand, C.J. 1984. Persistence of *Pasteurella multocida* in Nebraska Wetlands under Epizootic Conditions. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* **20**: 90-94.
- Rasadi, M. 1988. Reports of three cases of pasturellosis from broiler farms in Amol. *Journal of the faculty of veterinary medicine, university of Tehran* **44**: 37-45
- Rimler, R.B., Rebers, P.A. & Philips, M. 1984. Lipopolysaccharides of Heddeston Serotypes of *Pasteurella multocida*. *American Journal of Veterinary Research* **45**: 759-763.
- Samuel M.D. & Mensik, G. 2005. Avian Cholera- Research provides new insights on deadly disease. *USGS-National Wildlife Health Center Report*. http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/research/avian_cholera/cholera_insights.html
- Samuel, M.D., Shadduk, D.J., Goldberg, D.R., Baranyuk, V., Sielo, L. & Price, J.I. 1999. Antibodies against *Pasteurella multocida* in Snow Geese in Western Arctic. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* **35**: 440-440.
- Samuel M.D., Shadduk, D.J., Goldberg, D.R., Wilson, M.A., Joly, D.O. & Lehr, M.A. 2003. Characterization of *Pasteurella multocida* isolates from wetland ecosystems during 1996 to 1999. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* **39**: 798-807.
- Tavasoli, A., Sotoodehnia, A., Aarabi, I. & Vandyoosefi, J. 1984. A Case Report of Fowl Cholera Disease in North of Iran. *Archives of Razi Institute* **34**: 39-41.
- Towsend, K.M., Frost, A.G., Lee, C.W., Dimitriou, J.P. & Dawskins, J.S. 1998. Development of PCR assay for species and type-specific identification of *Pasteurella multocida* isolates. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* **36**: 1096-1100.
- Wobeser, G.A. 1981. Avian Cholera. In: *Diseases of Wild Waterfowl*. Plenum Press, New York. pp 47-60.

