



**UTF/077/ZAM: Technical Assistance to the  
Zambia Aquaculture Enterprise  
Development Project (ZAEDP)**

# **Session 3:**

## **Introduction to Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV)**

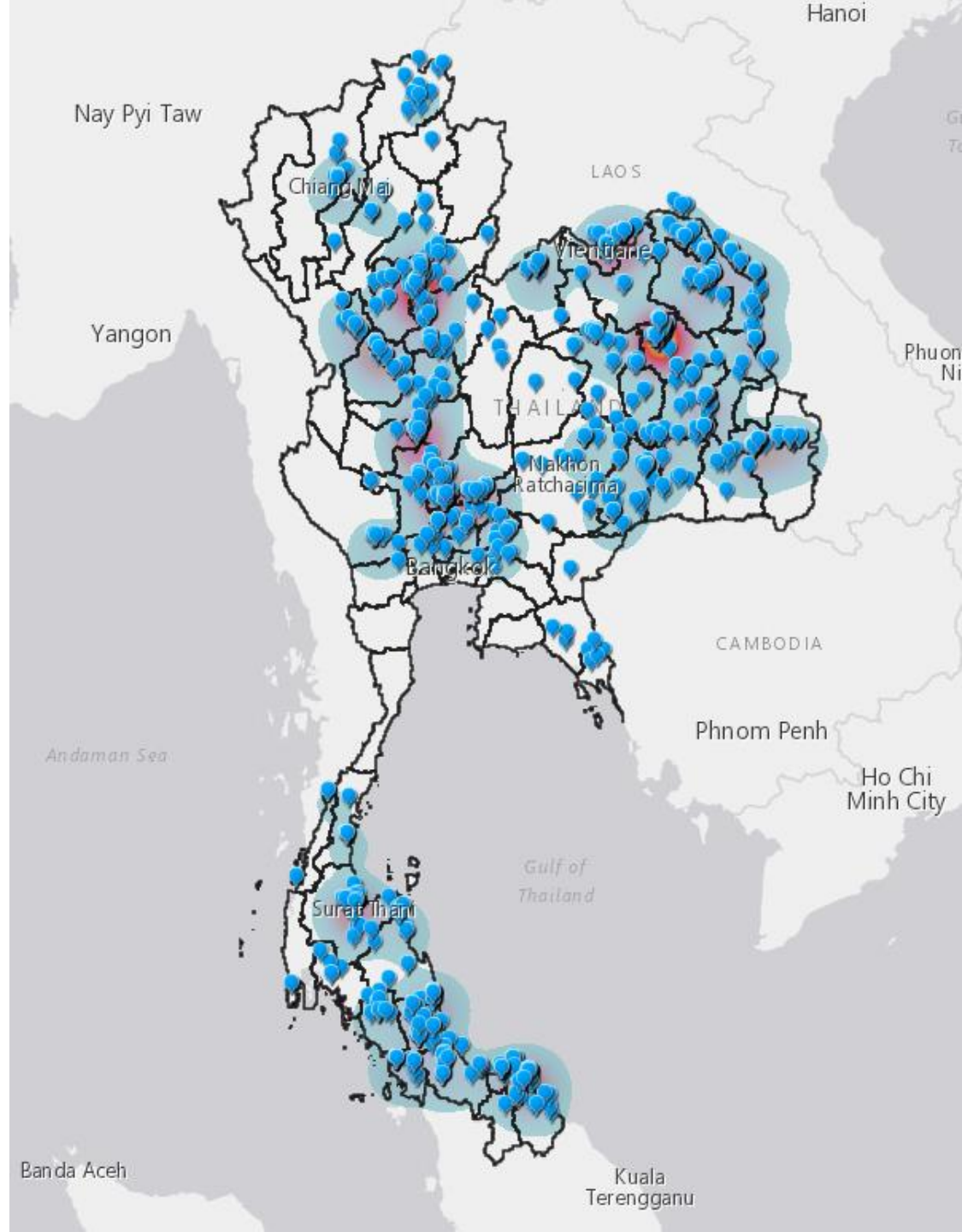
Win Surachetpong  
fvetwsp@ku.ac.th



**Red hybrid tilapia**  
**(*Oreochromis* spp.)**

**Nile tilapia**  
**(*Oreochromis niloticus*)**





# Open cage culture: risk of diseases



*Win Surachetpong*

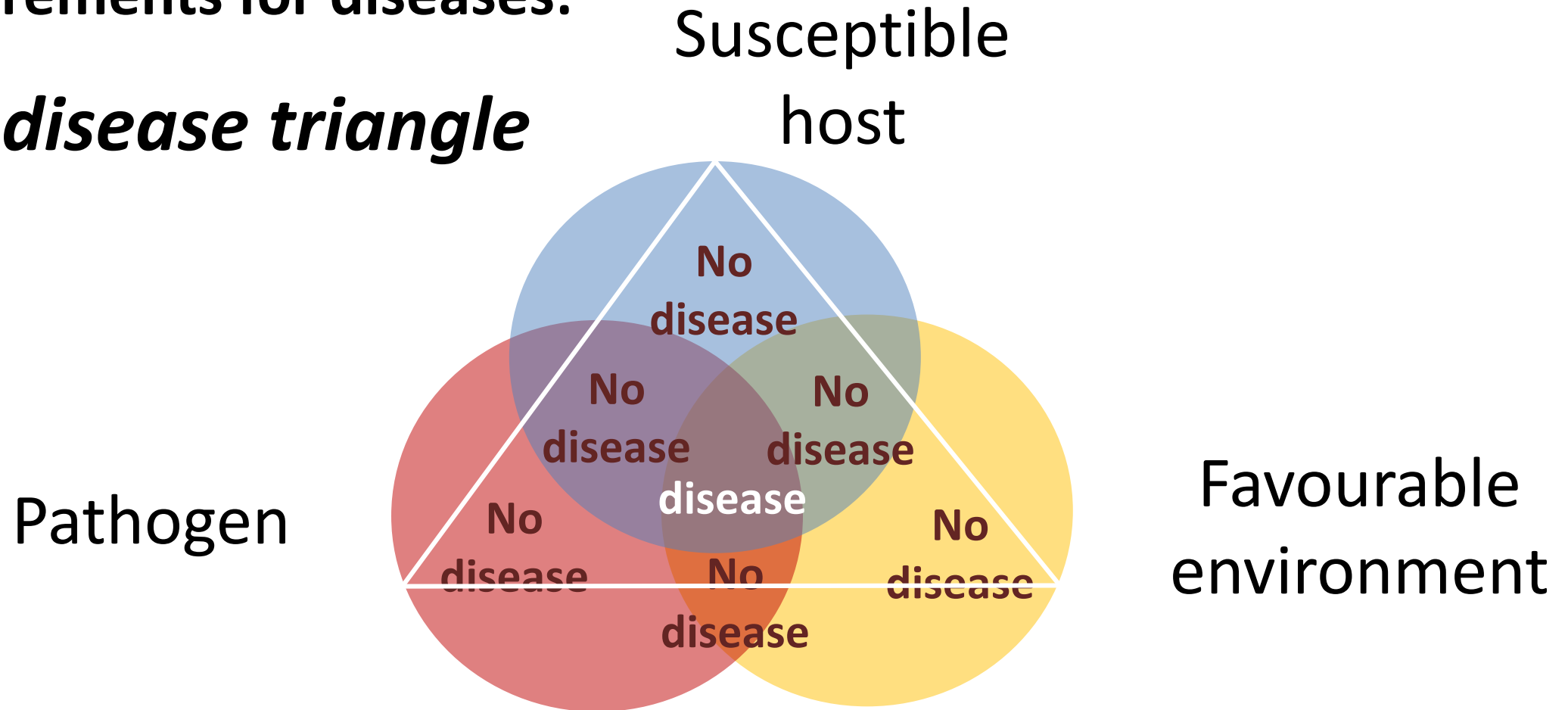


# TILAPIA HEALTH & DISEASES



Requirements for diseases:

*The disease triangle*



**Outbreaks require all these 3 factors**

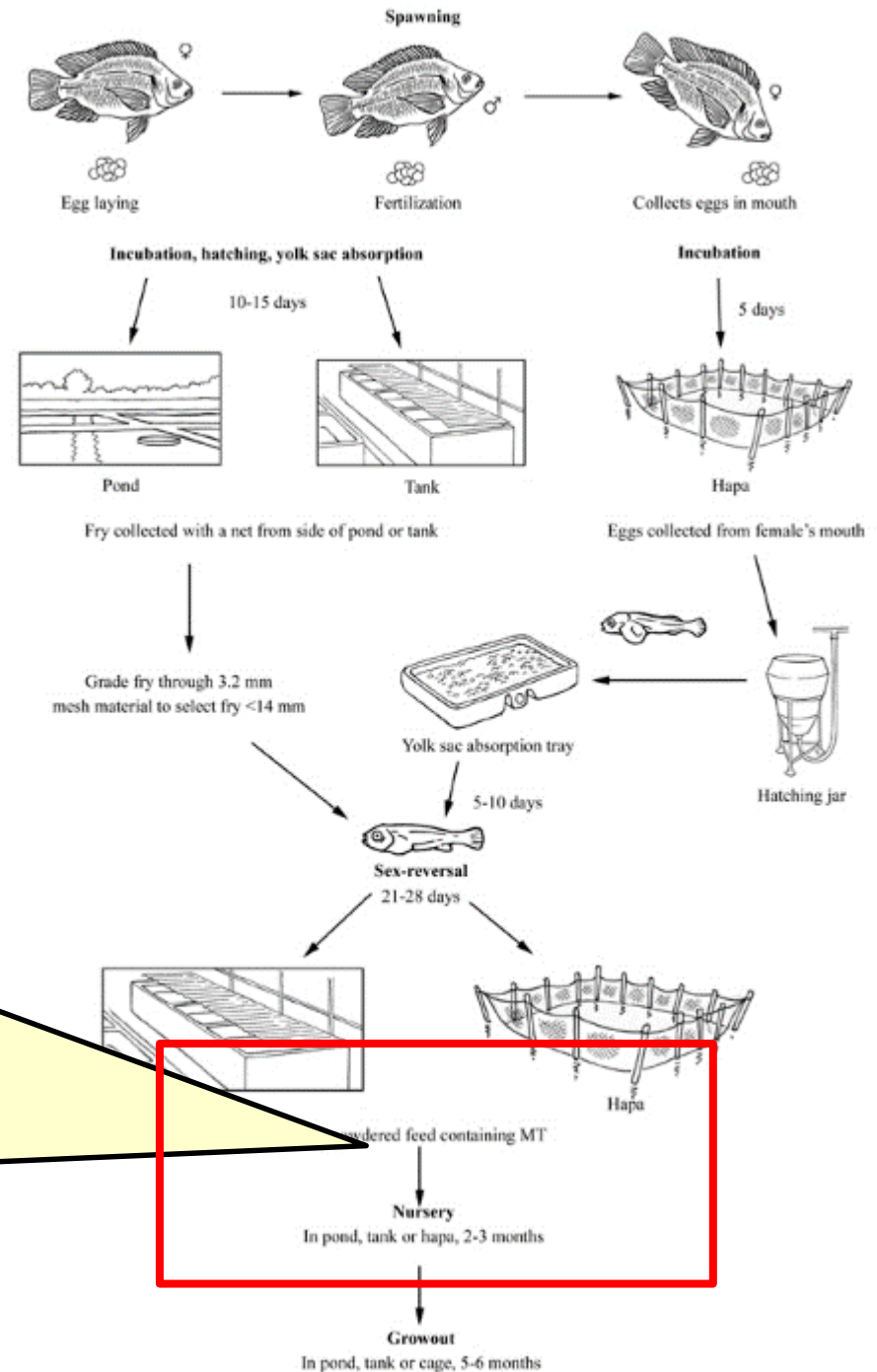
# Critical points

**Tilapia production cycle**  
**Fish transfer to grow out pond**

**Nursery**  
**(in ponds, tanks, hapas)**  
**2-3 months**



**Growout**  
**(in ponds, tanks, cages)**  
**5-6 months**





*Win Surachetpong*



**In 2015**

**Mass  
mortality of  
tilapia in cage  
culture  
system**



# Massive mortality in red hybrid tilapia



*Win Surachetpong*



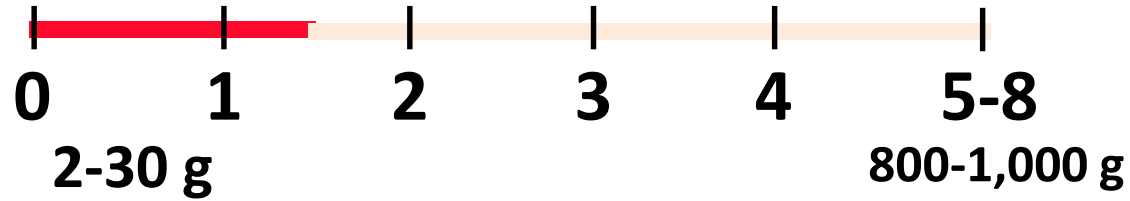
*Win Surachetpong*



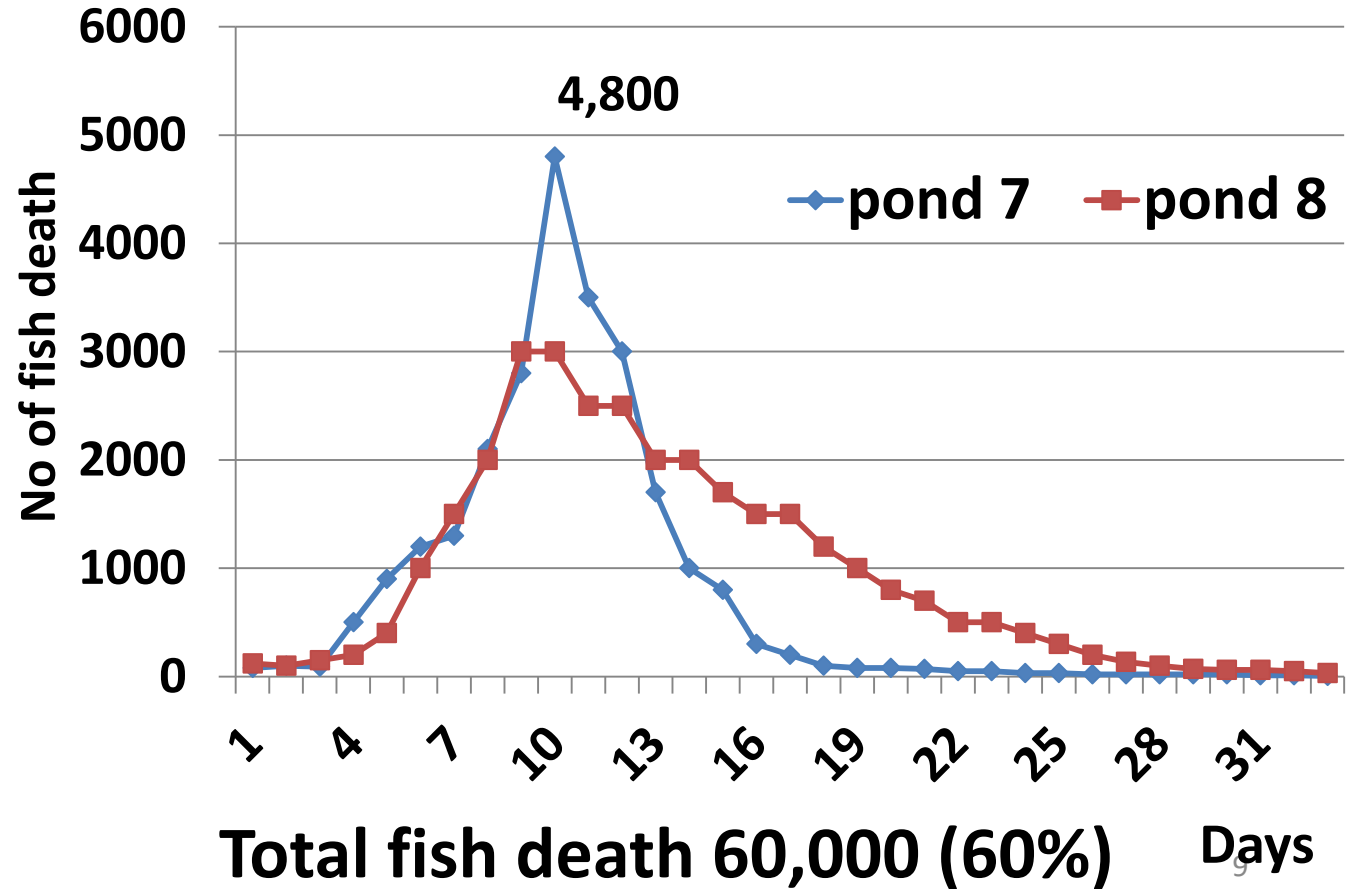
*Win Surachetpong*

# Tilapia One Month Mortality Syndrome (TOMMS)

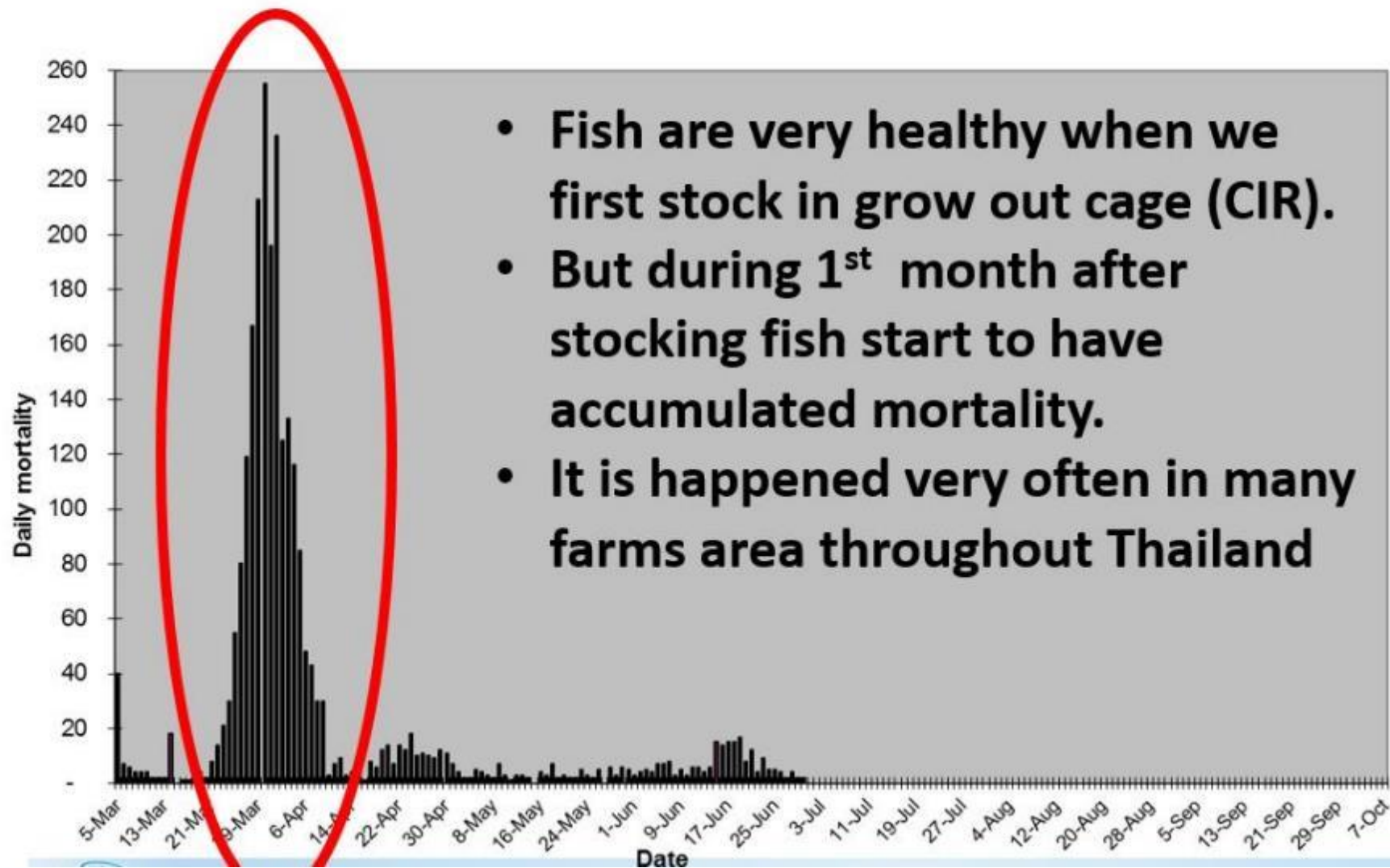
Months in cage/pond culture



Pattern of fish death



# 1<sup>st</sup> month post stocking mortality



- Fish are very healthy when we first stock in grow out cage (CIR).
- But during 1<sup>st</sup> month after stocking fish start to have accumulated mortality.
- It is happened very often in many farms area throughout Thailand



**Daily mortality above 1-2% for 3 consecutive days**

**60-100 fish/cage Fish size 20 g**

**No history of high mortality since stocking**

# Gross signs



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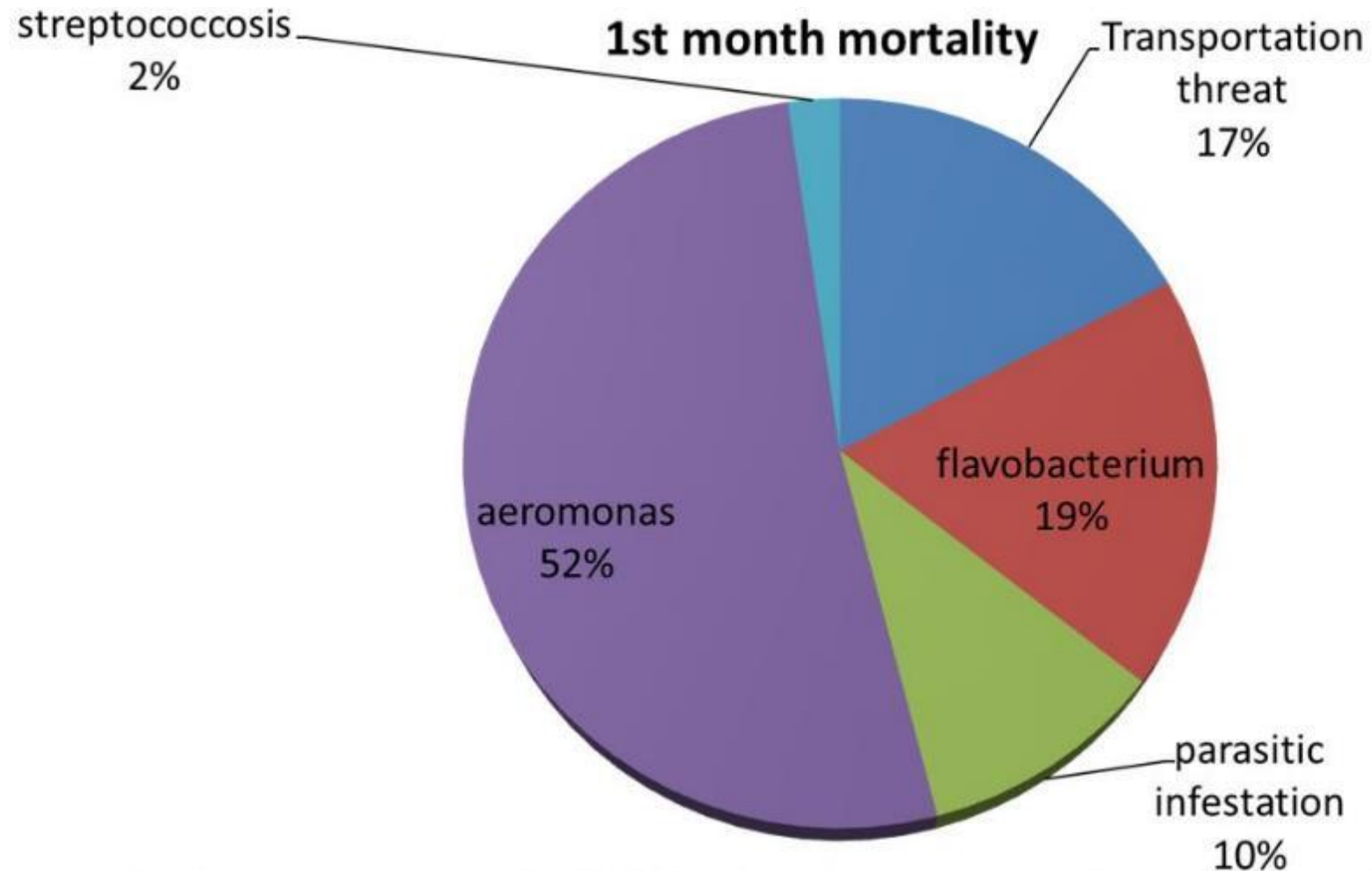
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# Clinical signs: Anemic fish

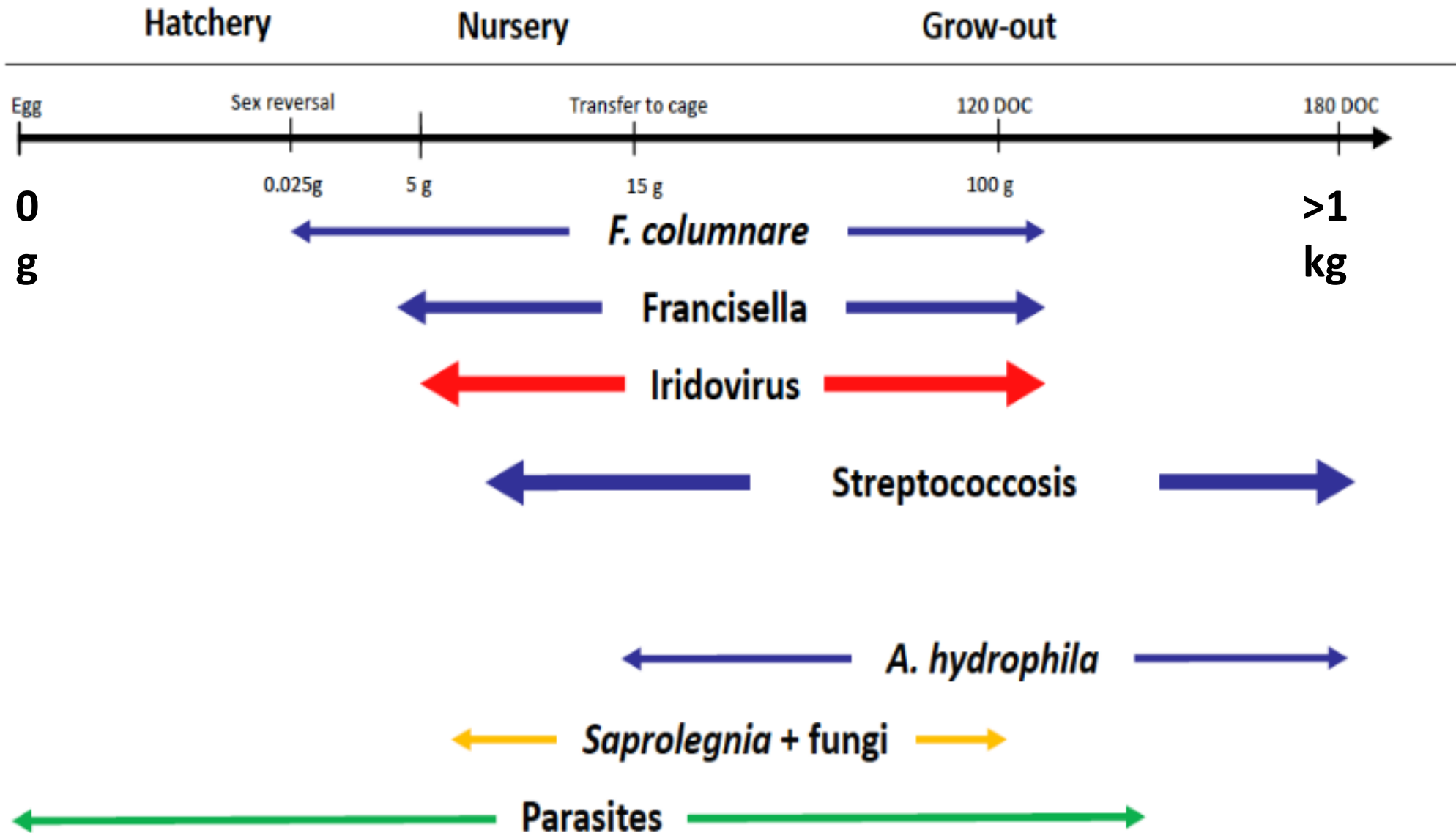


# Bacterial culture results of TOMMS

Data between June and December 2015 in a hatchery farm (600,000 fingerlings)



# Infectious diseases of tilapia



# Economic impact of TOMMS

- Fry and Fingerling loss → Fry shortage
  - Mortality 50-90% (2-4 million US dollars)
- More impact on red tilapia than Nile tilapia
  - Shift from red to Nile tilapia
- Survivor → price ↑ ~30 g → 10-30 cent per fish
- Elimination of positive broodstock?
- Cost of farm management



# Identification of a new emerging disease

"to open Pandora's box"  
means to perform an action  
that may seem small or  
innocent, but that turns out  
to have severely detrimental  
and far-reaching negative  
consequences. (Wikipedia)

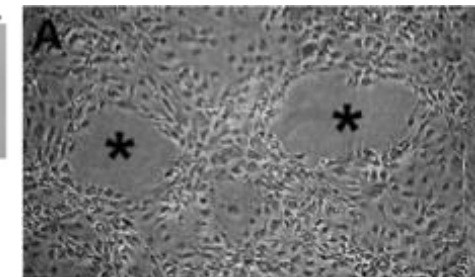
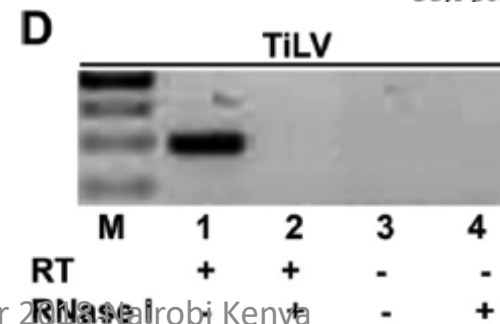
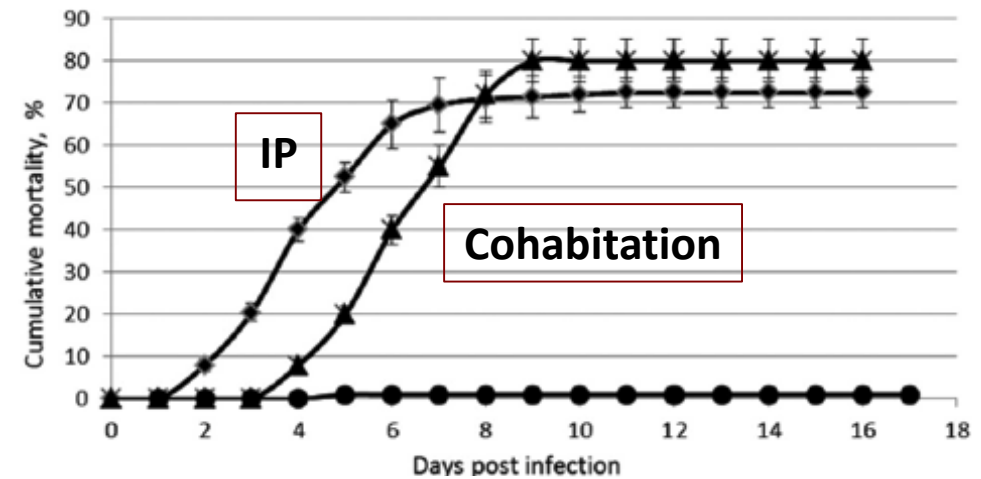
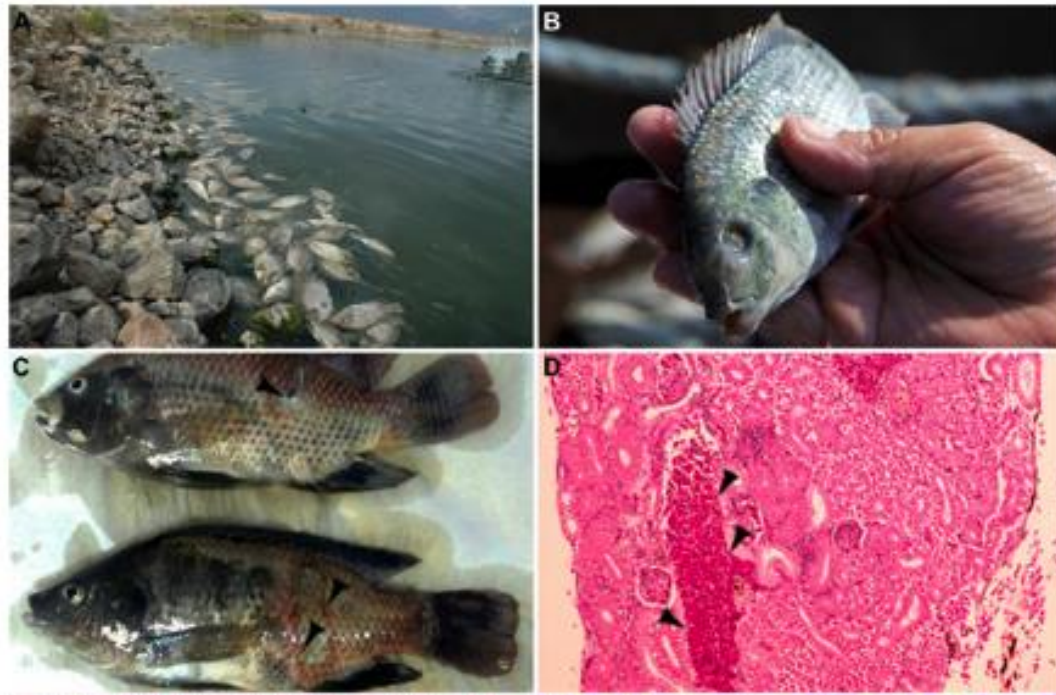


# Identification of a Novel RNA Virus Lethal to Tilapia

# Tilapia Lake Virus: TiLV

Marina Eyngor,<sup>a</sup> Rachel Zamostiano,<sup>b</sup> Japhette Esther Kembou Tsofack,<sup>b</sup> Asaf Berkowitz,<sup>a</sup> Hillel Bercovier,<sup>c</sup> Simon Tinman,<sup>d</sup> Menachem Lev,<sup>e</sup> Avshalom Hurvitz,<sup>f</sup> Marco Galeotti,<sup>g</sup> Eran Bacharach,<sup>b</sup> Avi Eldar<sup>a</sup>

Department of Poultry and Fish Diseases, The Kimron Veterinary Institute, Bet Dagan, Israel<sup>a</sup>; Department of Cell Research and Immunology, The George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel<sup>b</sup>; The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel<sup>c</sup>; Department of Animal Facility, Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel<sup>d</sup>; Ein Gev Fisheries, Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel<sup>e</sup>; Dan Fish Farms, Kibbutz Dan, Upper Galilee, Israel<sup>f</sup>; Department of Food Science, Section of Veterinary Pathology, University of Udine, Udine, Italy<sup>g</sup>



# Syncytial hepatitis of farmed tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus* (L.): a case report

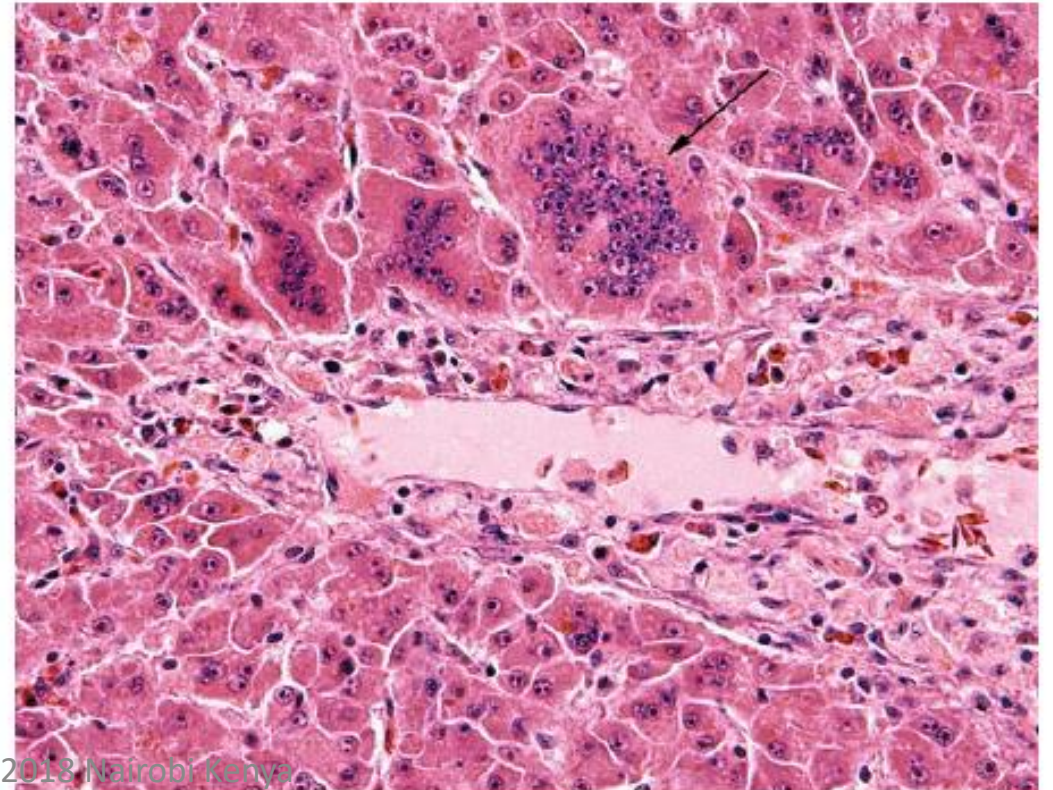
Journal of Fish Diseases 2014, 37, 583–589

H W Ferguson<sup>1</sup>, R Kabuusu<sup>1</sup>, S Beltran<sup>2</sup>, E Reyes<sup>2</sup>, J A Lince<sup>2</sup> and J del Pozo<sup>3</sup>

1 Marine Medicine Programme, School of Veterinary Medicine, St George's University, St George, Grenada

2 Produmar S.A., Guayaquil, Ecuador

3 Department of Pathology, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK



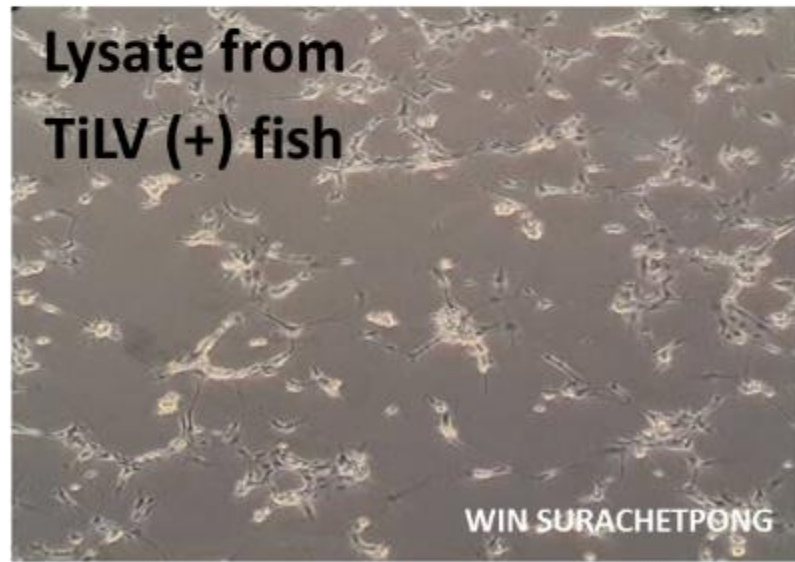
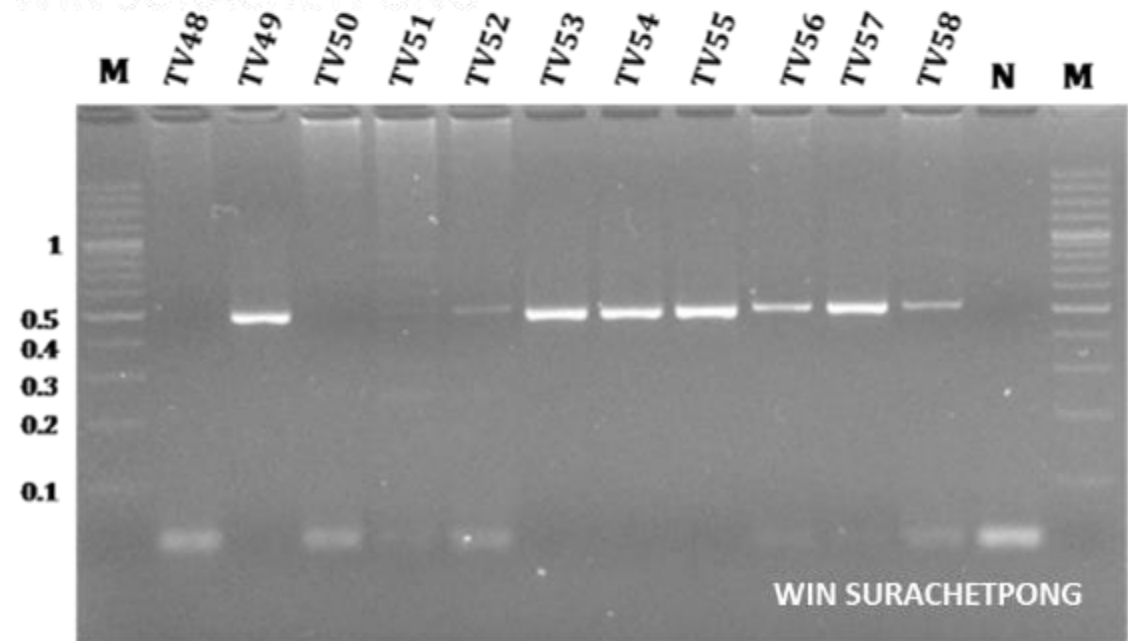
# TOMMS & Tilapia Lake Virus ??



# Detection of TiLV in our samples (2015)

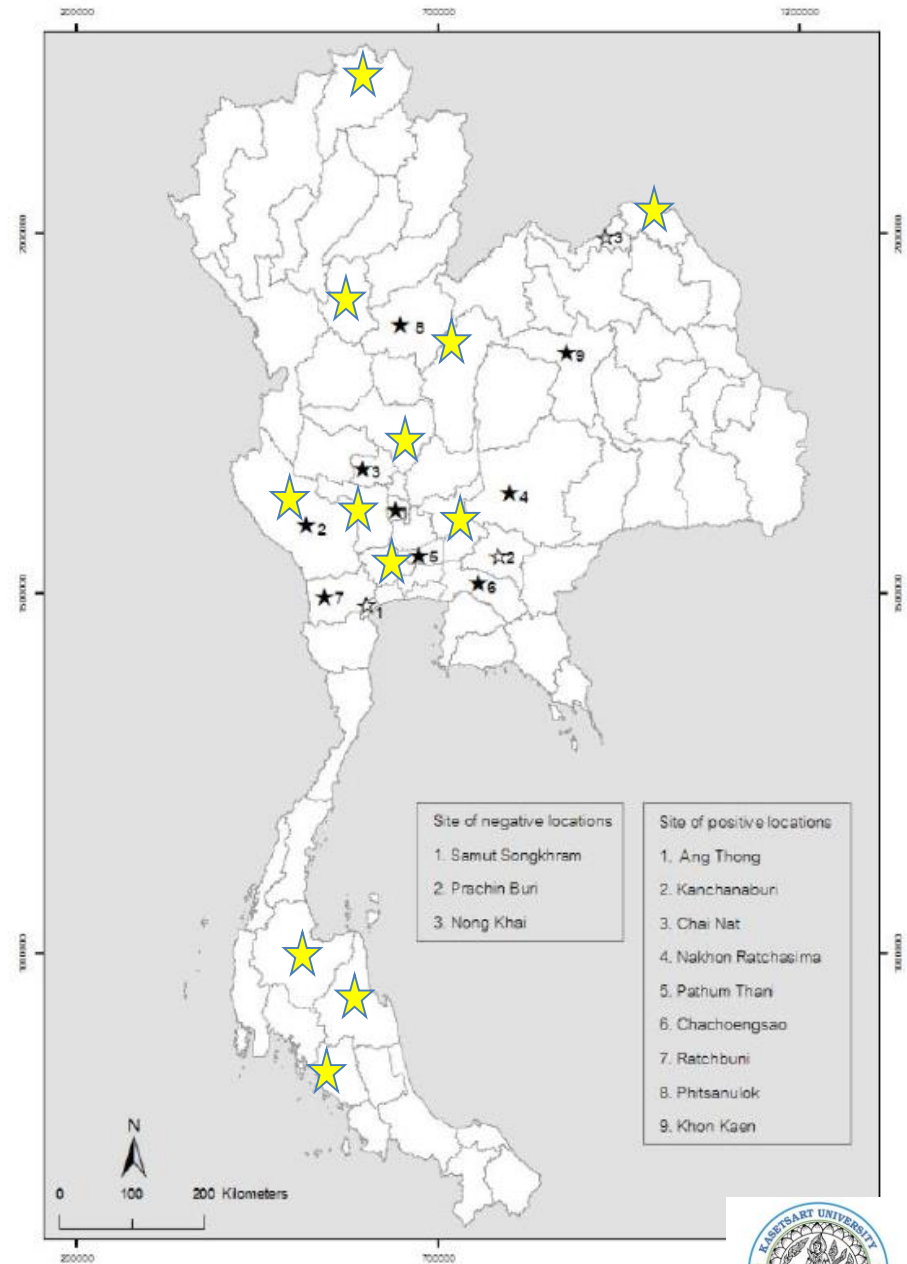
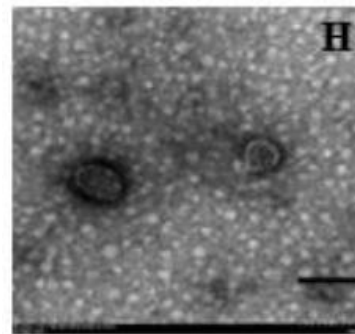
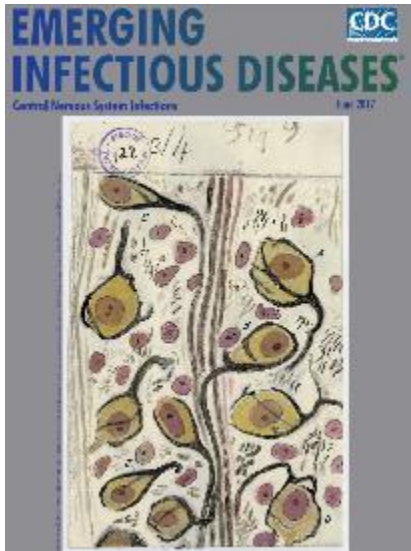


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# Epidemiology of TiLV

- From **32** outbreaks of high mortality → **22** are TiLV positive
- Bacteria, parasite and virus

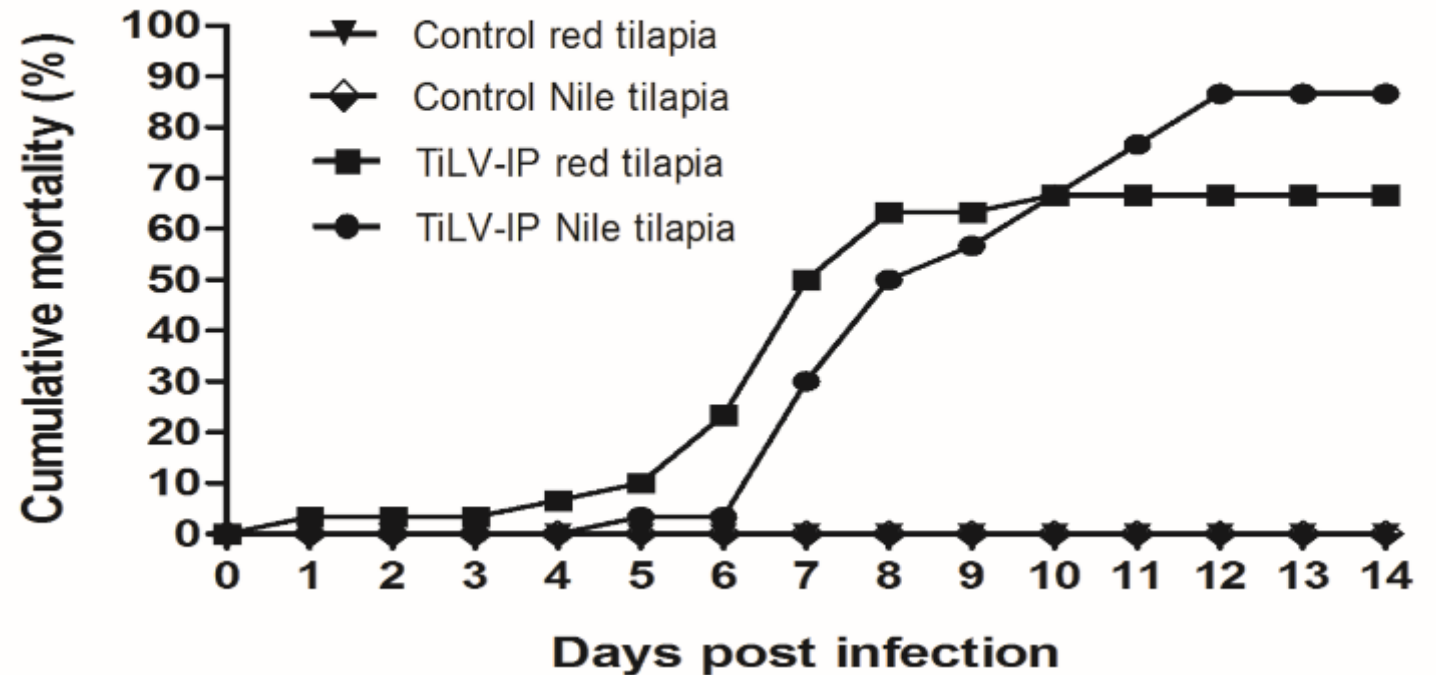
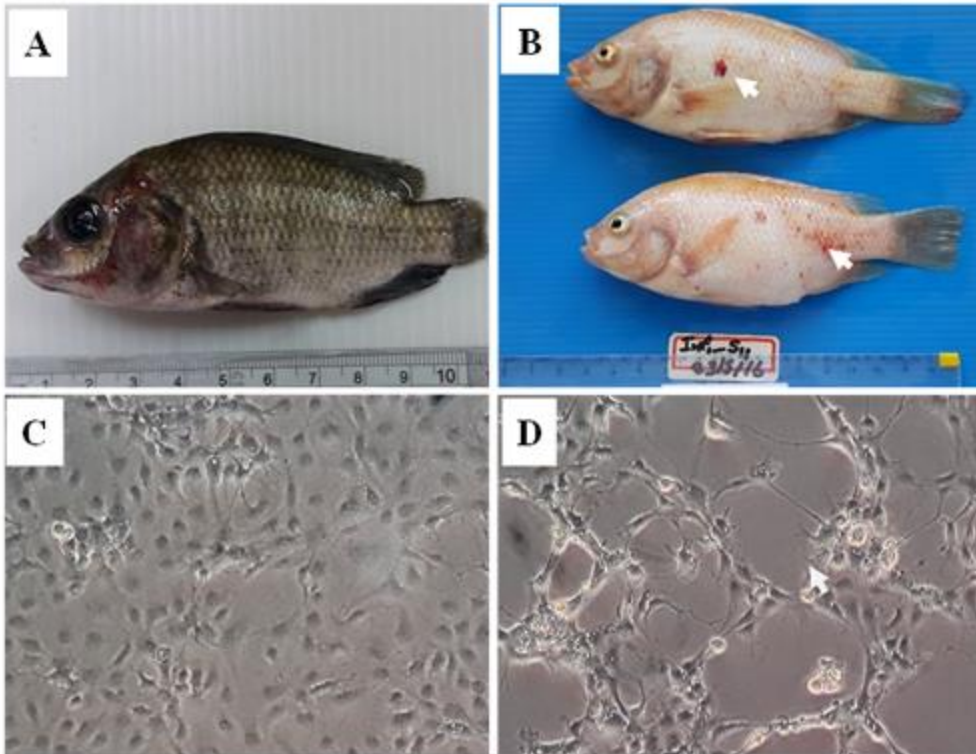


Surachetpong et al., 2017



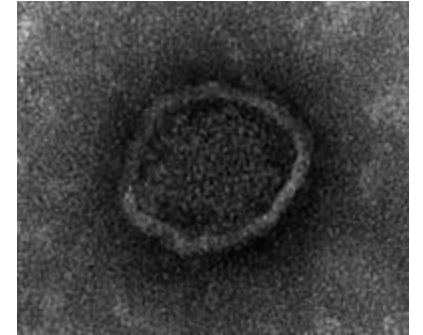
## Experimental infection of Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) in Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and red tilapia (*Oreochromis spp.*)

Puntanat Tattiyapong<sup>a, b</sup>, Worawan Dachavichitlead<sup>a, b</sup>, Win Surachetpong<sup>a, b</sup>  



# Current information on TiLV

- RNA, envelope, Orthomyxo-like virus
- Mainly affect tilapia, closely related species and giant gourami
- No report of harm to human or other animals
- **Strict biosecurity** reduces the impact of disease and spreading of the virus
- Not on the **OIE disease list**



# Countries with TiLV positive



Modified from Al-Hussinee et al., 2019 **3 continents and 15 countries**

# Massive mortality of red tilapia (2018) Malaysia



Win Surachetpong; Vet Med KU

# Massive mortality of Nile tilapia (2018) Indonesia

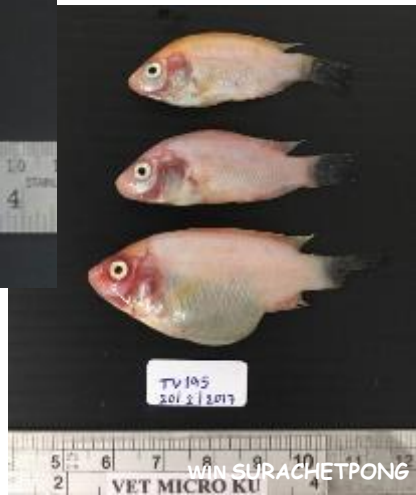
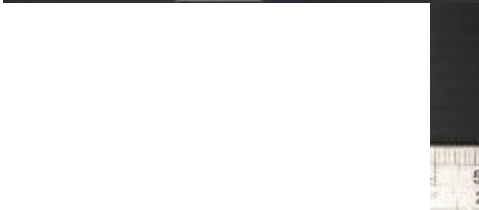
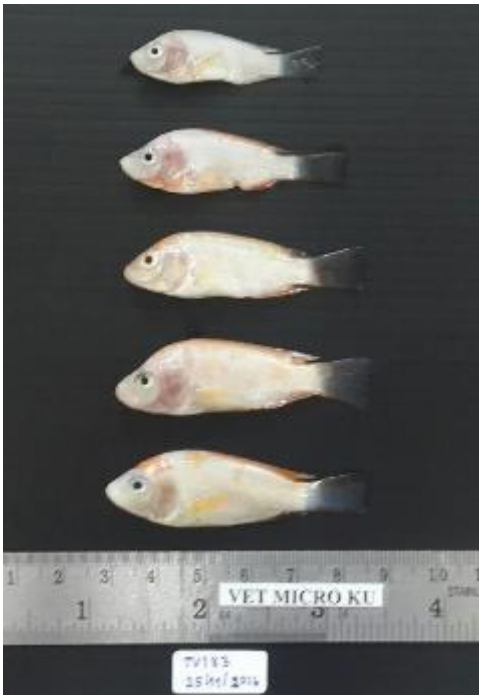
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## Peru (Taraporto)

- 300-400 g
- >40% mortality



# All fish sizes are susceptible to TiLV infection



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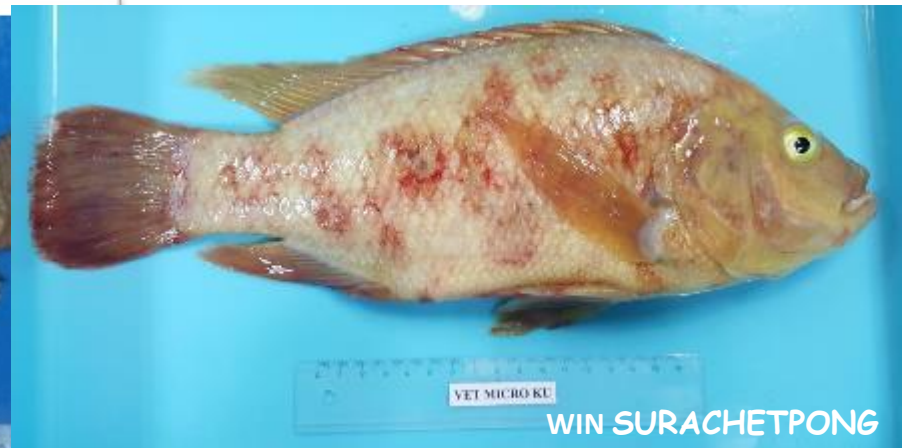
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VET MICRO KU WIN SURACHETPONG



WIN SURACHETPONG 11/11/2016-N4



VET MICRO KU WIN SURACHETPONG



# Most important warm water fish species are resistant to tilapia lake virus (TiLV) infection

## Susceptibility of important warm water fish species to tilapia lake virus (TiLV) infection



Phitchaya Jaemwimol<sup>a</sup>, Pattarasuda Rawiwan<sup>a,b</sup>, Puntanat Tattiyapong<sup>a,b</sup>, Patrawut Saengnual<sup>c</sup>, Attapon Kamlangdee<sup>d</sup>, Win Surachetpong<sup>a,b,\*</sup>



*Cyprinus carpio*



*Trichogaster pectoralis*



*Barbodes gonionotus*



*Lates calcarifer*



*Anabas testudineus*



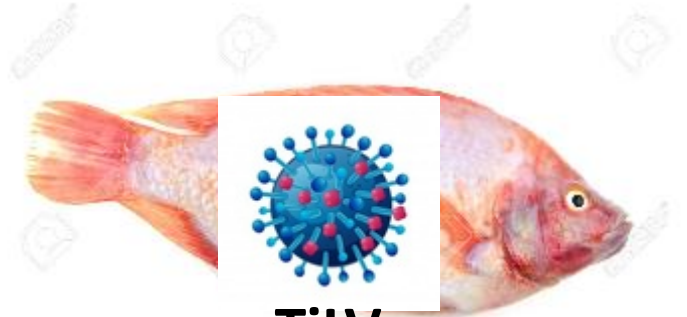
*Clarias macrocephalus*



*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*



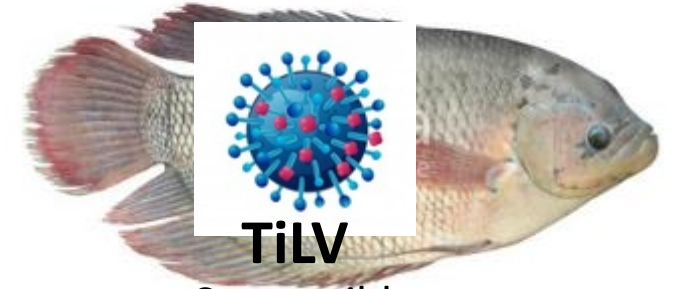
*Chana striata*



**TiLV**

Susceptible

*Oreochromis sp.*



**TiLV**

Susceptible

*Osphronemus goramy*

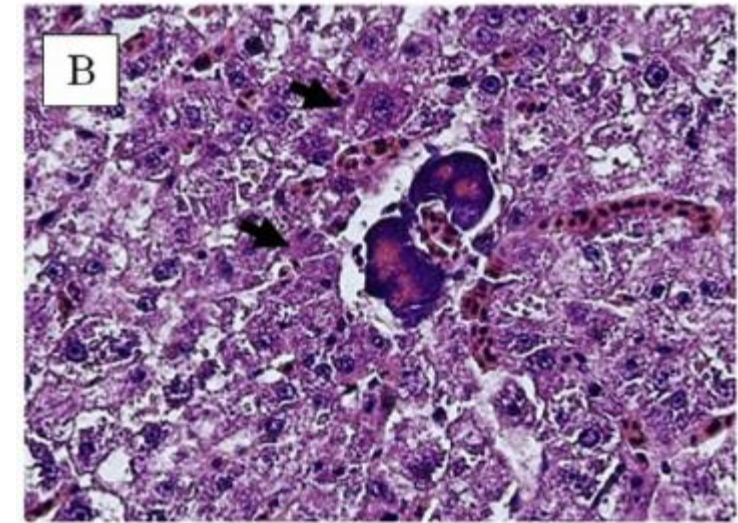
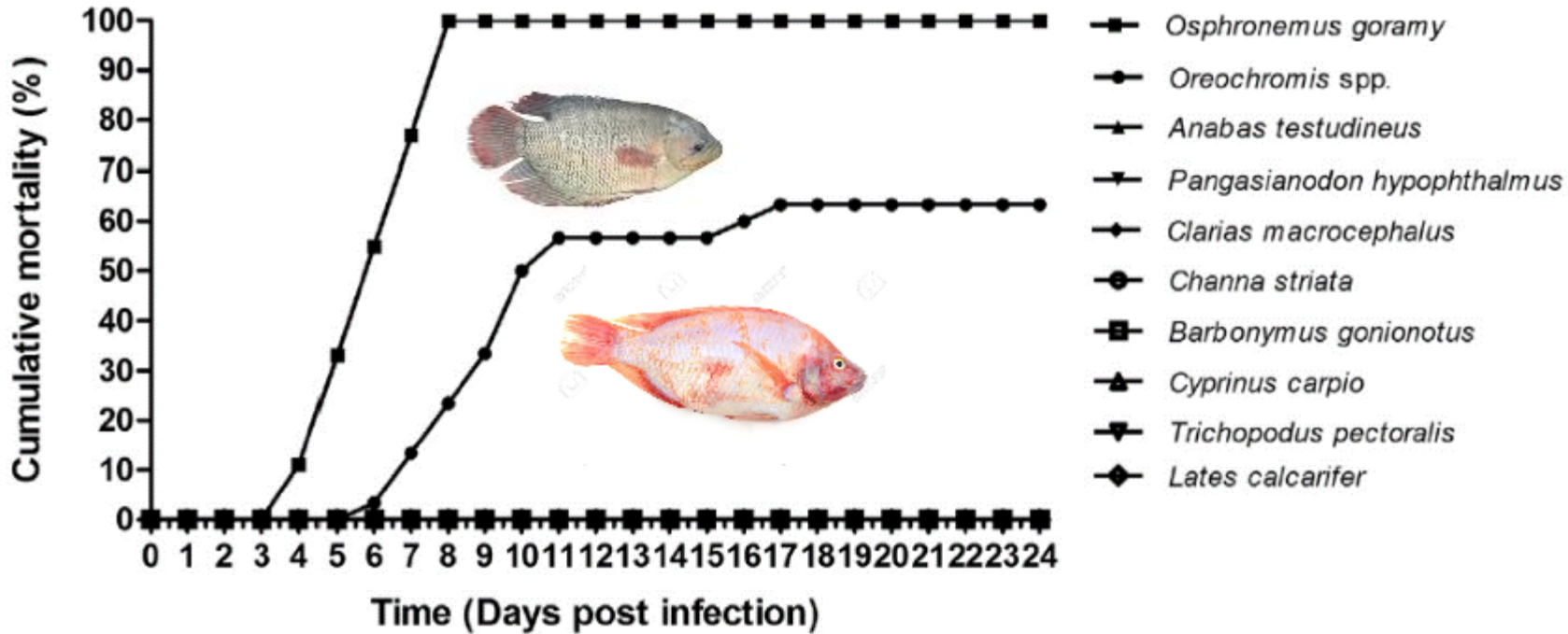




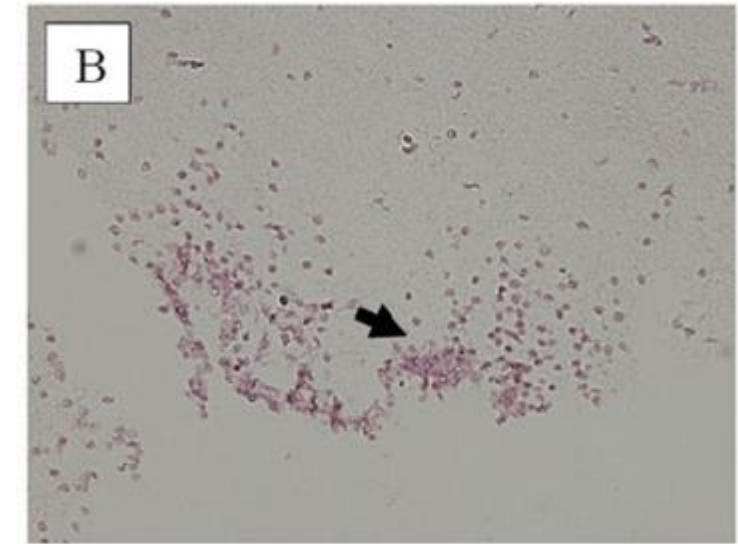
Susceptibility of important warm water fish species to tilapia lake virus (TiLV) infection

Phitchaya Jaemwimol<sup>a</sup>, Pattarasuda Rawiwan<sup>a,b</sup>, Puntanat Tattiyapong<sup>a,b</sup>, Patrawut Saengnual<sup>c</sup>, Attapon Kamlangdee<sup>d</sup>, Win Surachetpong<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

# Mortality of ten species after TiLV challenge



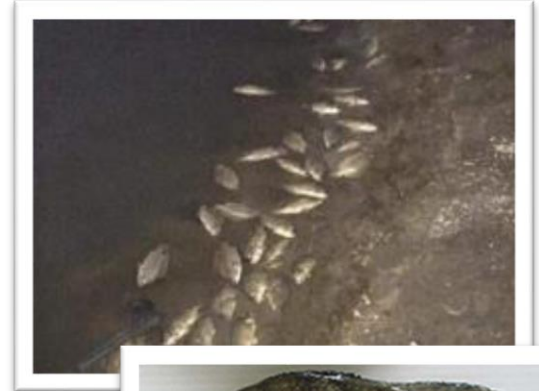
Syncytial cell in liver of giant gourami



In situ hybridization signal in the brain of infected giant gourami


# How do you know TiLV exists in your farm?

- High mortality, above 2-3% continuously
- Swimming at water surface
- Skin redness/erosion
- Red tilapia (pale body)
- Exophthalmos, scale protrusion



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# Detection of Tilapia Lake Virus in Egyptian fish farms experiencing high mortalities in 2015

P Nicholson<sup>1\*</sup> | M A Fathi<sup>2,3\*</sup> | A Fischer<sup>4</sup> | C Mohan<sup>5</sup> | E Schieck<sup>4</sup> | N Mishra<sup>6</sup> |  
A Heinemann<sup>7</sup> | J Frey<sup>1</sup> | B Wieland<sup>8</sup> | J Jores<sup>1,4</sup> 

**Bacteria in the genus  
*Aeromonas* are  
commonly isolated  
from TiLV infected fish**

Farm ID	Diseased fish/total fish sampled Morbidity rate (%) <sup>a</sup>	TiLV detected	<i>Aeromonas</i> species detected
1	7/13 (54%)	–	<i>A. veronii</i> <i>A. hydrophilia</i>
2	14/26 (54%)	–	<i>A. veronii</i>
3	13/24 (54%)	+	<i>A. veronii</i>
4	13/30 (43%)	–	<i>A. veronii</i> <i>A. ichthiosmia</i> <i>A. enteropelogenes</i>
5	21/40 (53%)	+	<i>A. veronii</i>
6	14/20 (70%)	–	<i>A. veronii</i> <i>A. enteropelogenes</i> <i>A. jandaei</i>
7	8/24 (33%)	+	<i>A. veronii</i> <i>A. ichthiosmia</i>
8	10/10 (100%)	+	<i>A. enteropelogenes</i> <i>A. hydrophilia</i>
WF	0/20 (0%)	–	<i>A. veronii</i>

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

WILEY



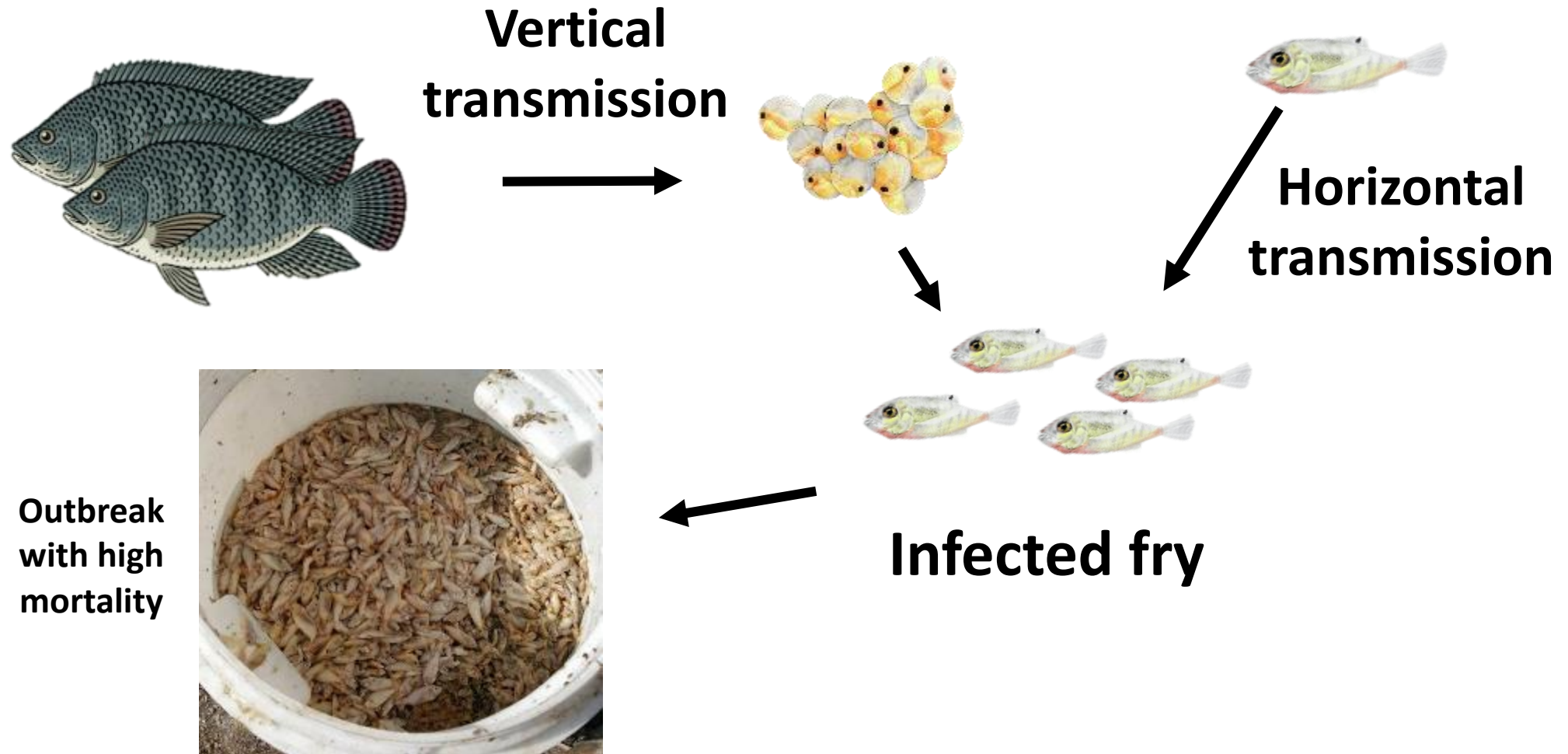
# Detection of tilapia lake virus (TiLV) infection by PCR in farmed and wild Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) from Lake Victoria

K K Mugimba<sup>1,2\*</sup> | A A Chengula<sup>1,3\*</sup> | S Wamala<sup>1,2</sup> | E D Mwega<sup>1,3</sup> | C J Kasanga<sup>3</sup> |  
D K Byarugaba<sup>2</sup> | R H Mdegela<sup>3</sup> | S Tal<sup>4</sup> | B Bornstein<sup>4</sup> | A Dishon<sup>4</sup> | S Mutoloki<sup>1</sup> |  
L David<sup>5</sup> | Ø Evensen<sup>1</sup> | H M Munang'andu<sup>1</sup>

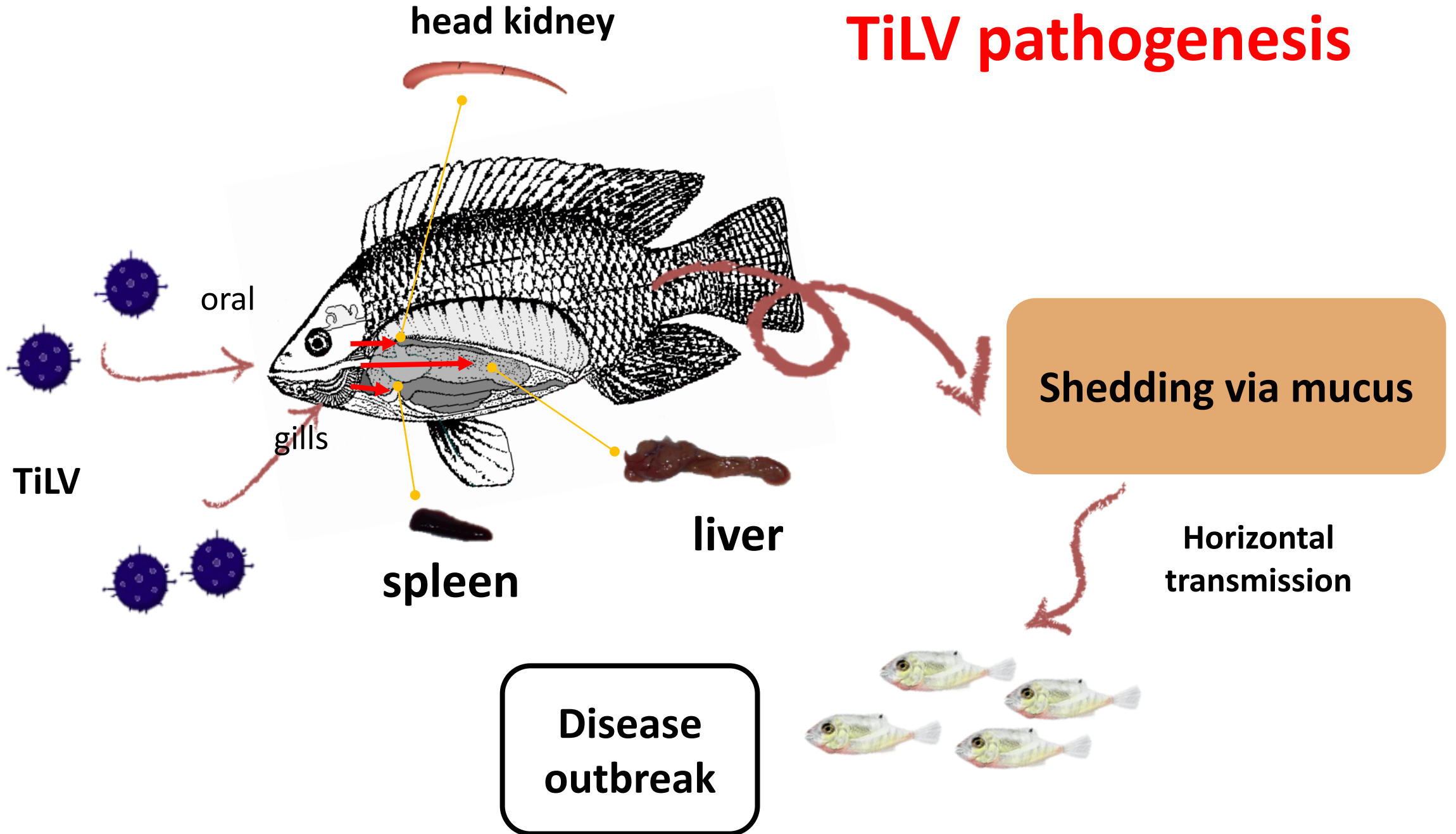
- **Examined 191 fish, 28 showed positive TiLV by PCR**
- **High prevalence in head kidney and spleen (lymphoid tissues)**

# Transmission mechanisms

The transmission of TiLV between fish is primarily horizontal and high levels of virus are shed from infected fish, plus vertical transmission have been suggested.



# TiLV pathogenesis



# Take home messages....

- **Tilapia Lake Virus is an emerging viral disease associated with high morbidity and mortality in tilapia**
- **To date, TiLV was reported in 15 countries**
- **Multiple infections of TiLV, bacteria and parasites are commonly found: Summer mortality, One month mortality syndrome**



**UTF/077/ZAM: Technical Assistance to the Zambia  
Aquaculture Enterprise Development (ZAED)**

**Thank you for your attention**