

FAO/ASTF Project: GCP/RAF/510/MUL:

**Enhancing capacity/risk reduction of emerging Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) to
African tilapia aquaculture: Intensive Training Course on TiLV**

4-13 December 2018. Kisumu, Kenya

in cooperation with Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS)

Session:

**Diagnostic PCR method for
Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV)**

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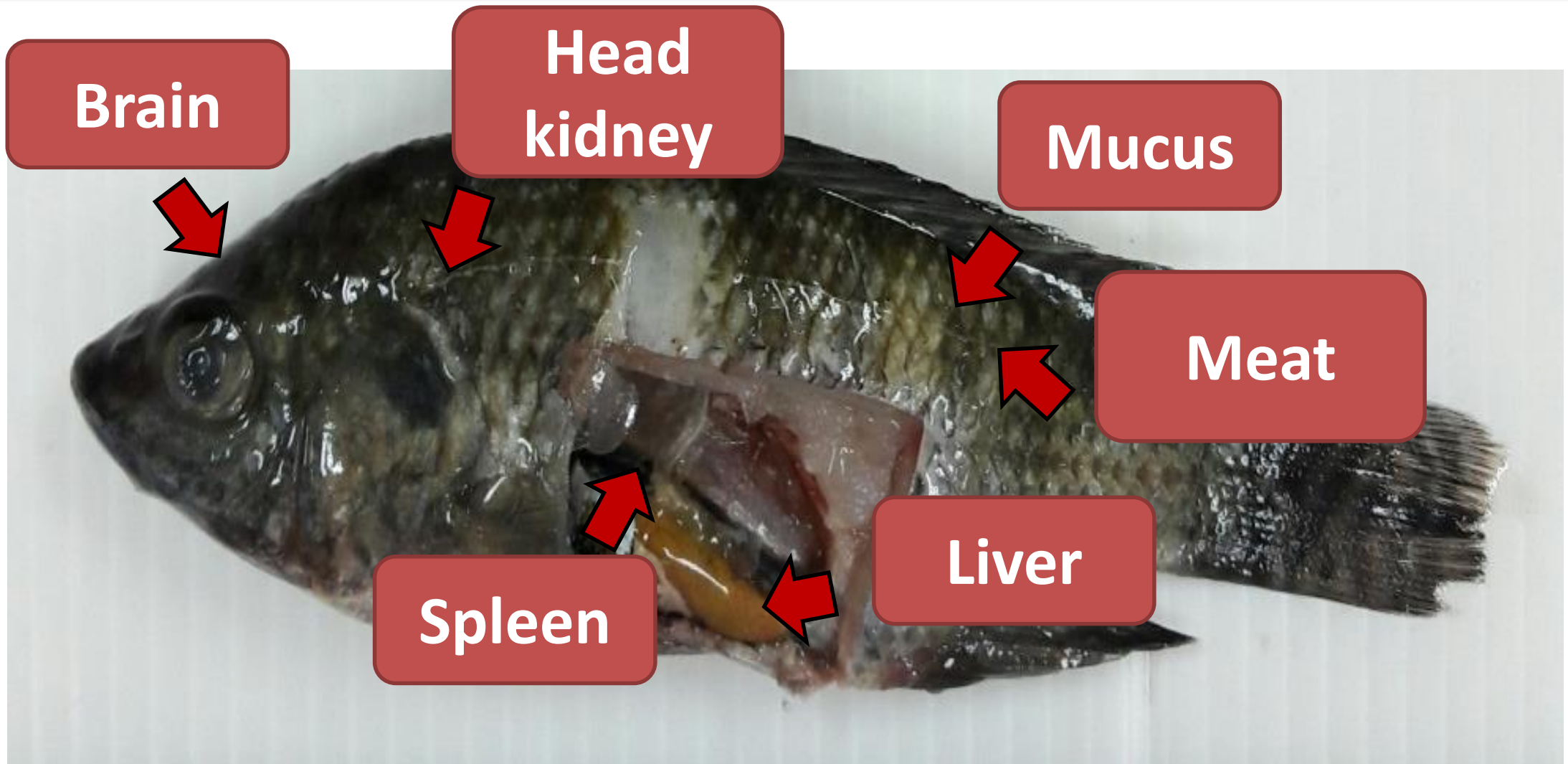
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Acknowledgements



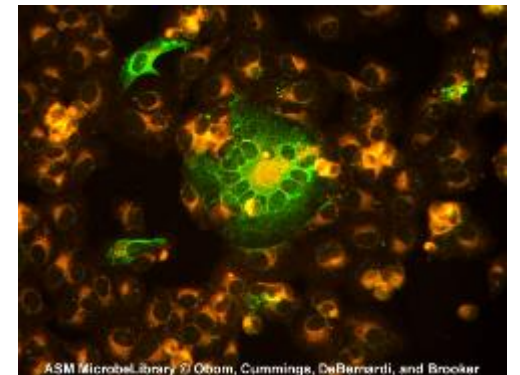
Sample collection for diagnostic procedures

Organs be used for TiLV diagnosis



Direct Examination

1. **Electron microscopy**
2. **Light microscopy**
3. **Immunofluorescence**
4. **Molecular techniques**



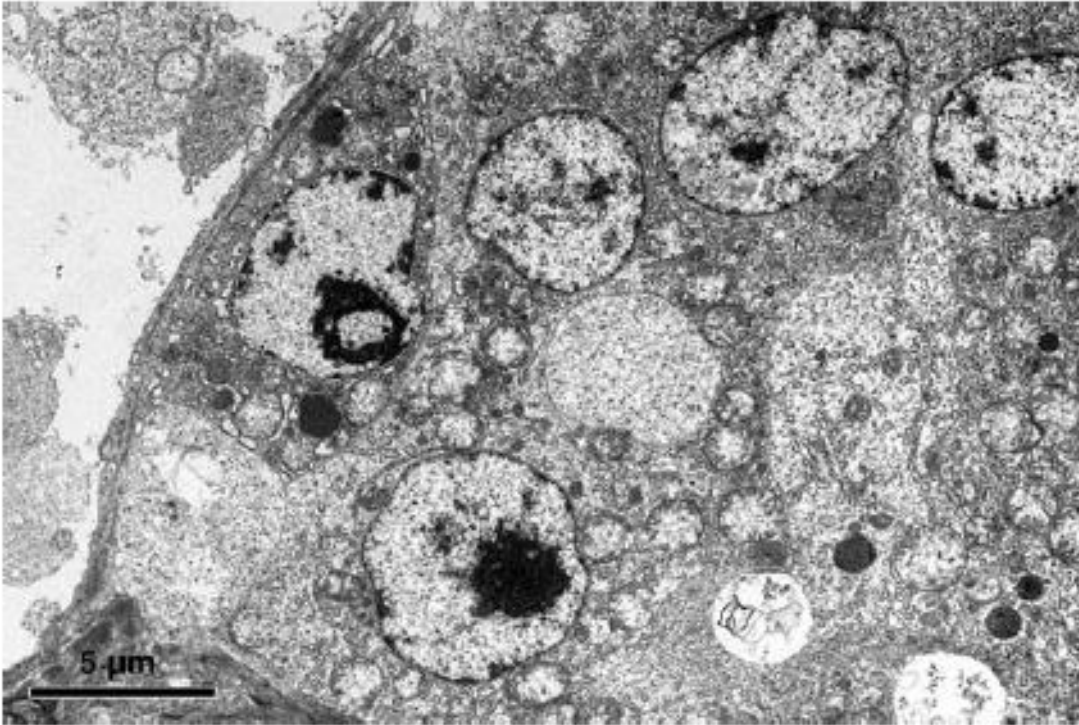
1. Transmission electron microscopy



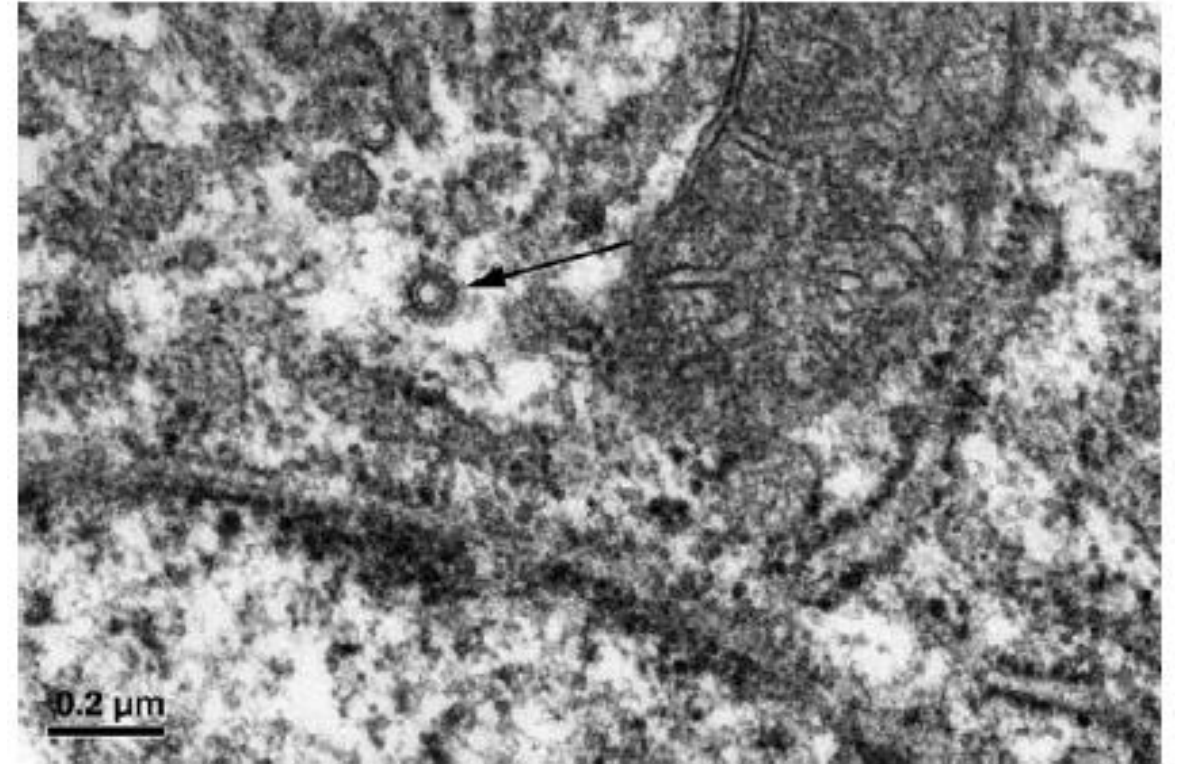
- Examination of virus preparations in which their **morphological identity** is unknown
- A beam of electrons is transmitted through an ultra thin specimen → An image is formed, magnified, and focused in an imaging device

SHV morphology

Transmission electron microscopy



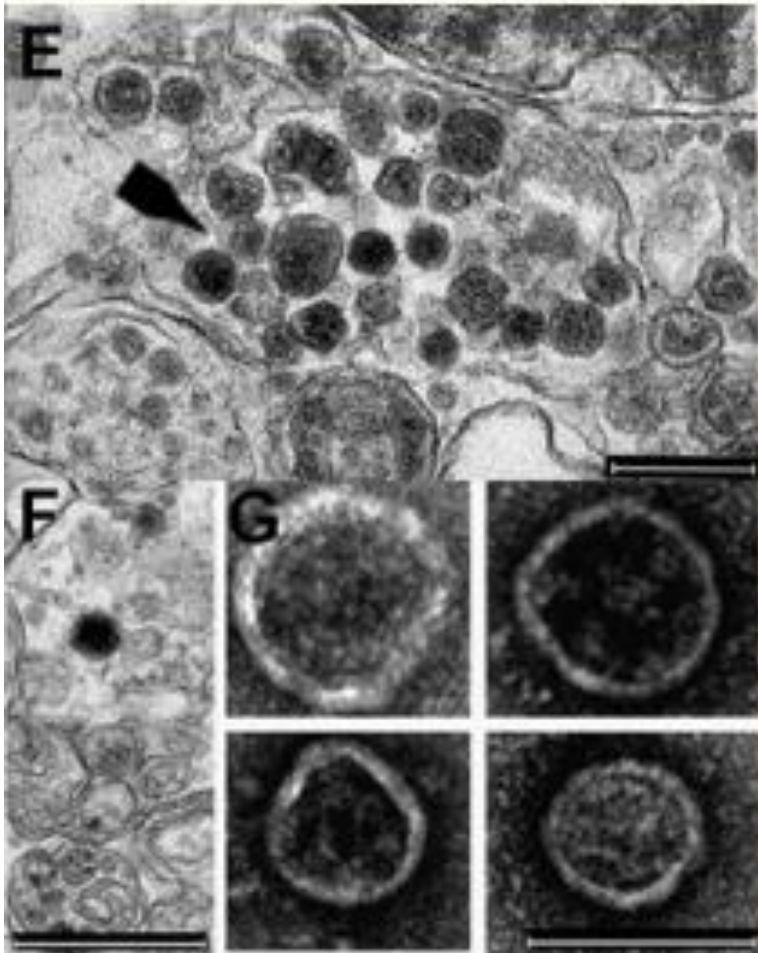
Liver from moribund tilapia showing multinucleated hepatocyte



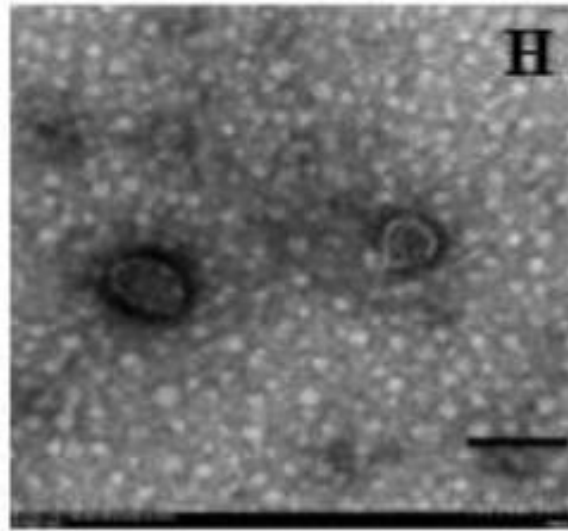
EM of hepatocyte from moribund tilapia showing typical appearance of virus-like particle within cytoplasm (arrow)

TiLV morphology

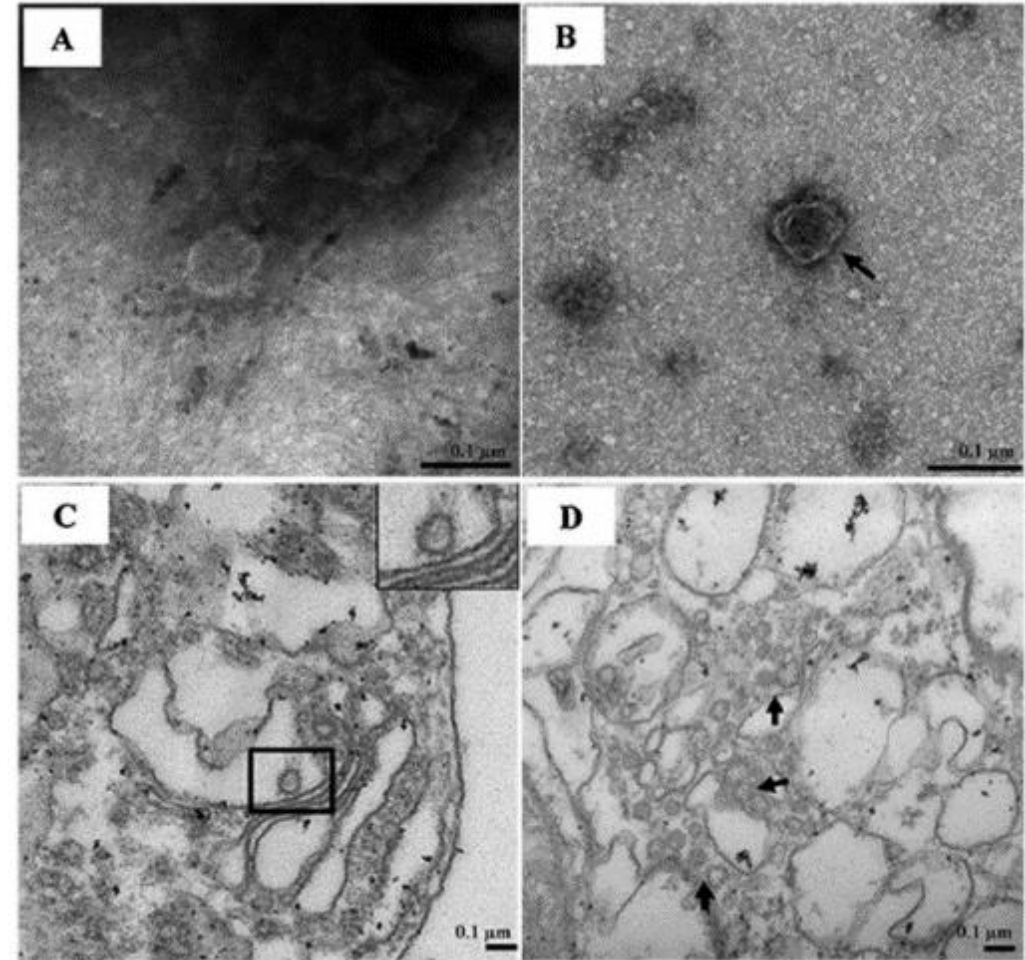
Transmission electron microscopy



Eyngor et al J Clin Micro 2014



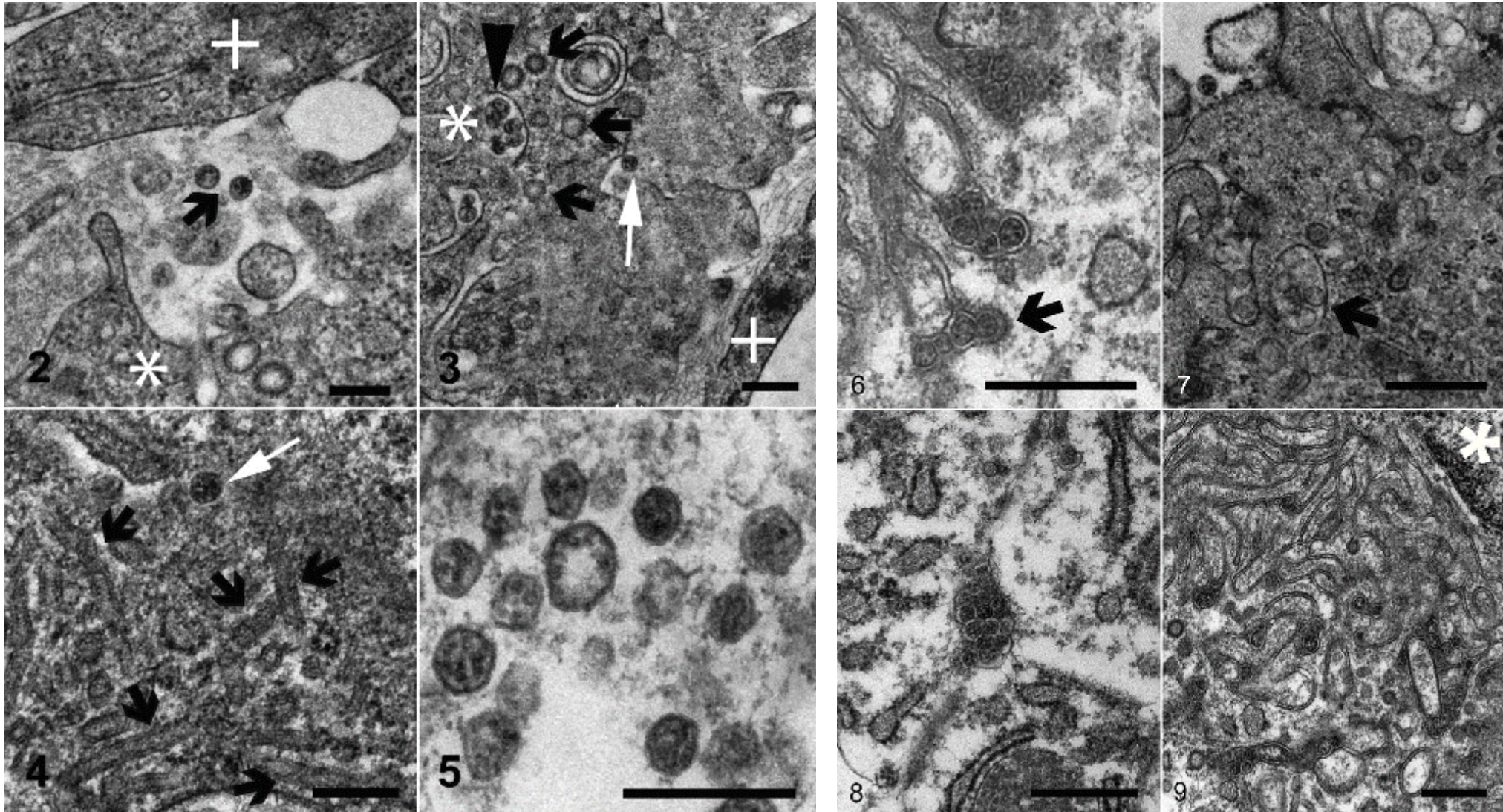
Surachetpong et al Emerging Infectious Dis 2017



Tattiyapong et al Vet Micro 2017

TiLV morphology

Transmission electron microscopy

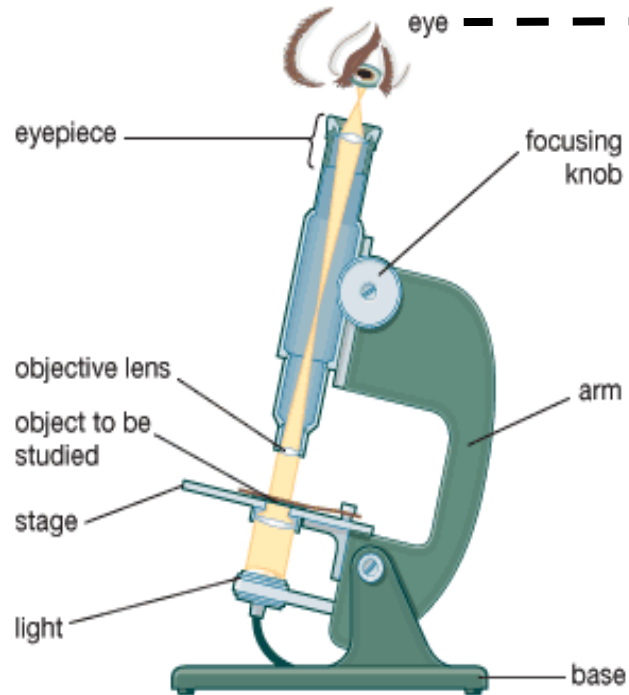


Del-Pozo et al.,
2016 Vet.
Pathol.

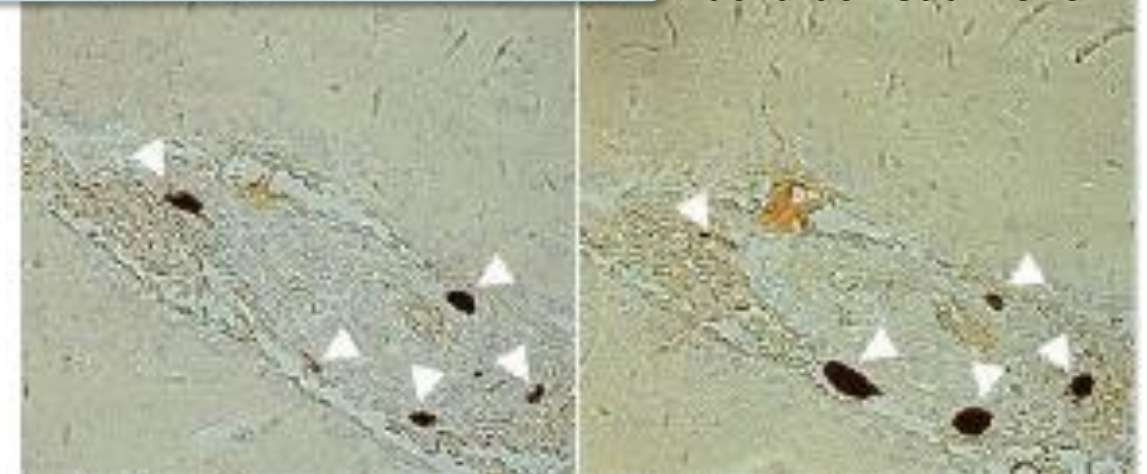
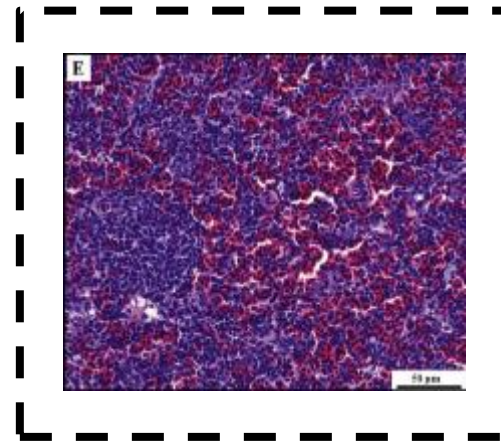
2. Light microscopy

In situ hybridization

Bacharach et al 2016

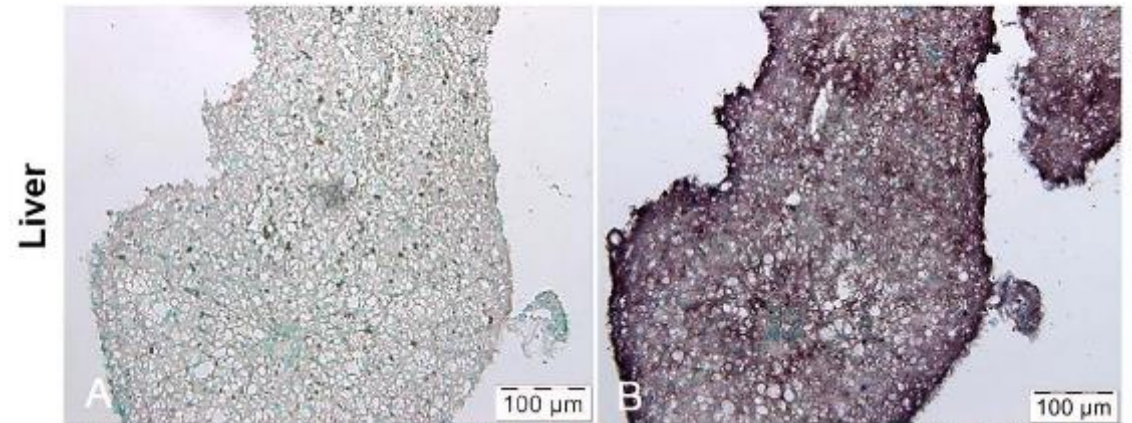


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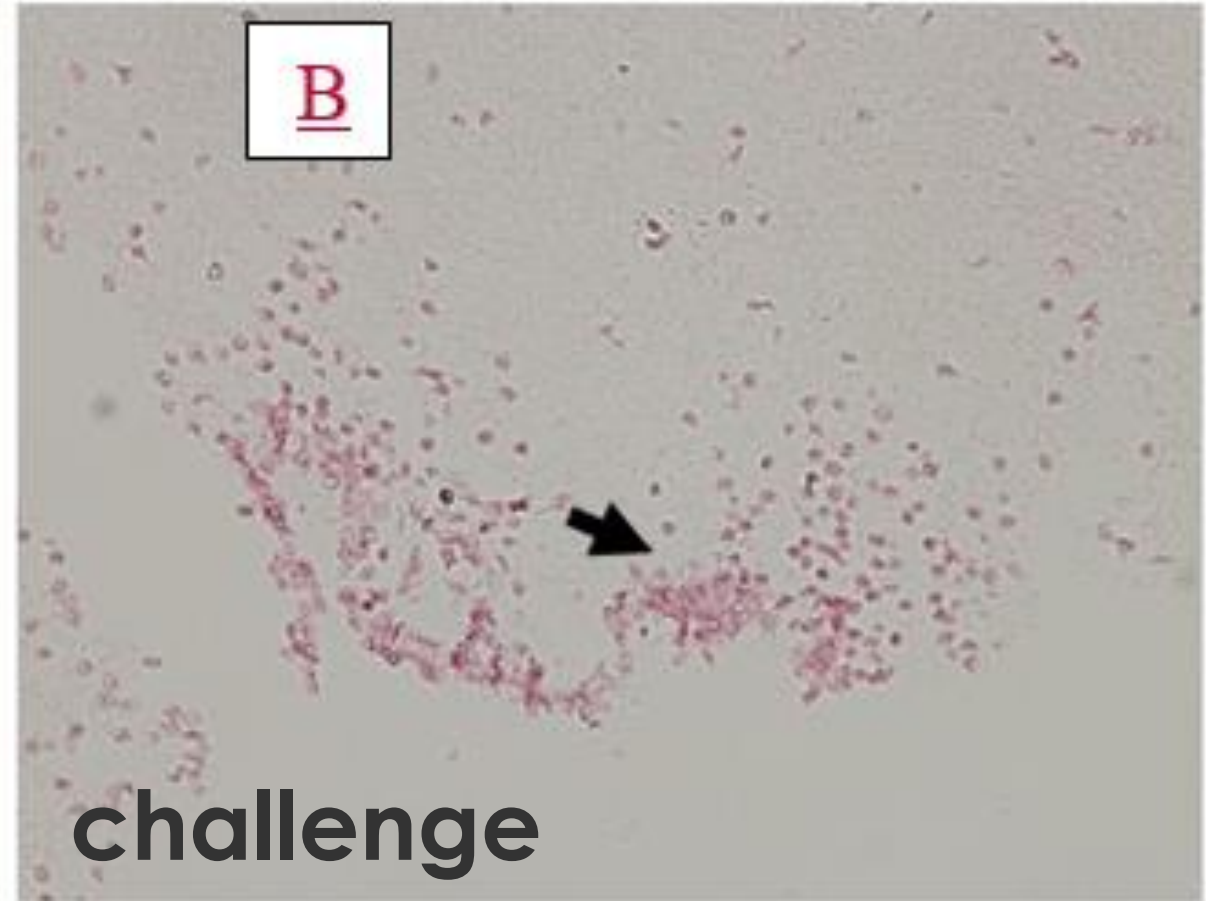
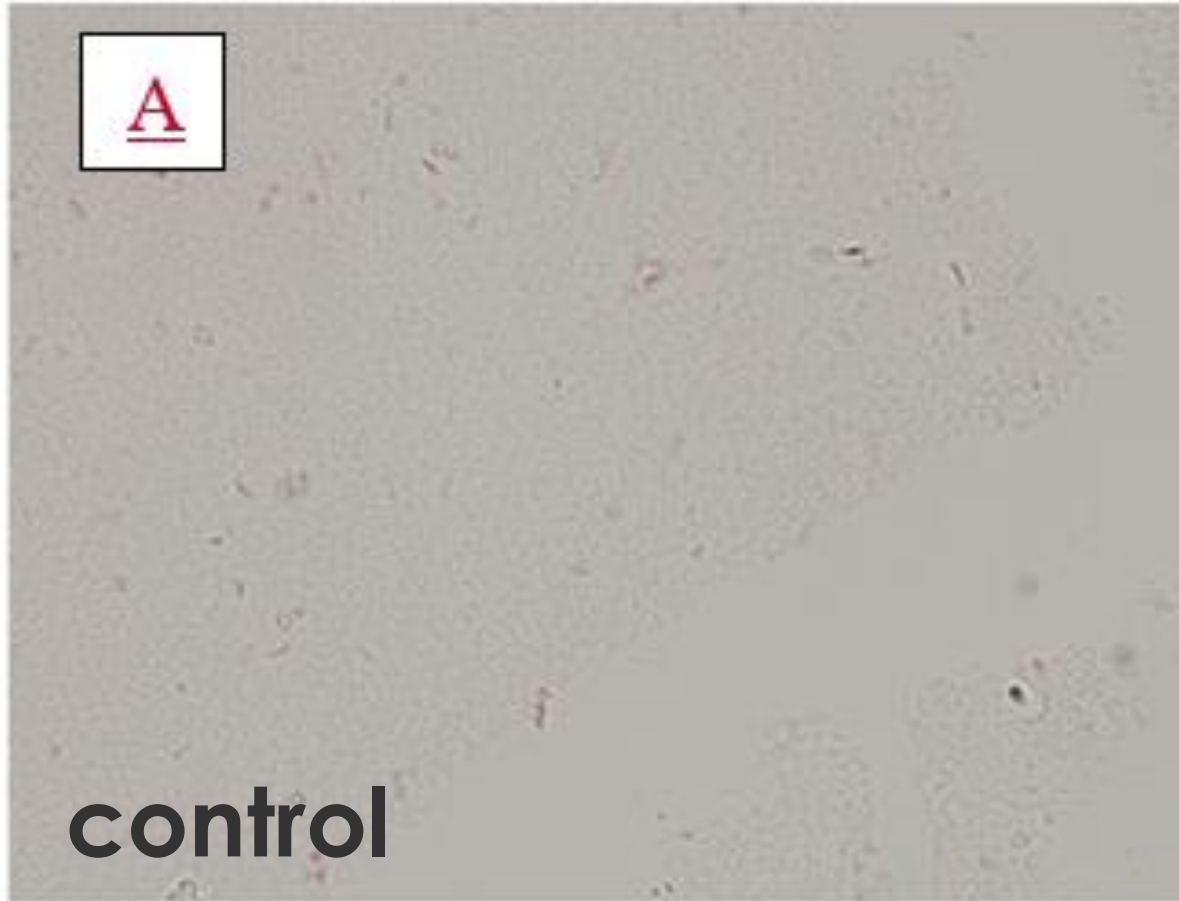
Negative probe

TiLV probe



- **Viral detection**
- **Microscopic pathological examination**

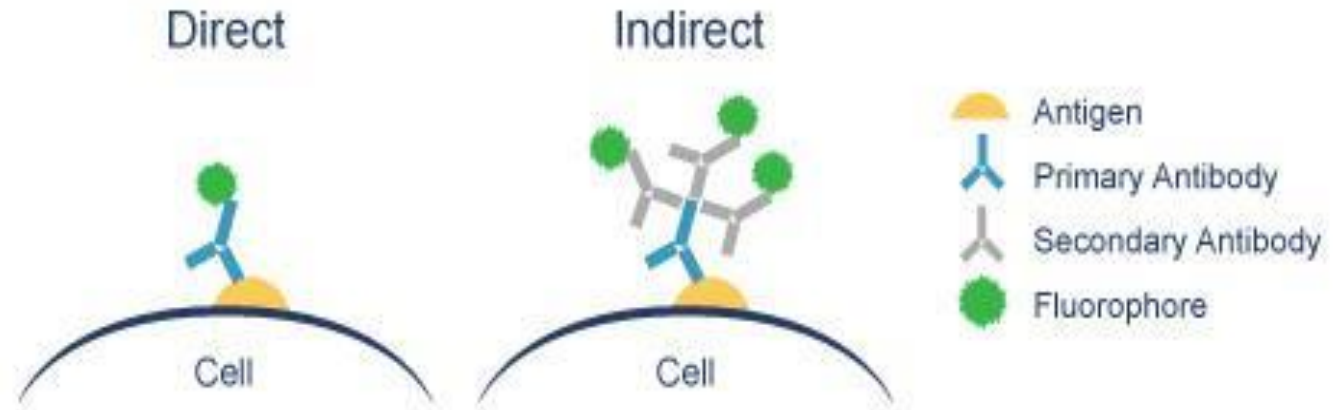
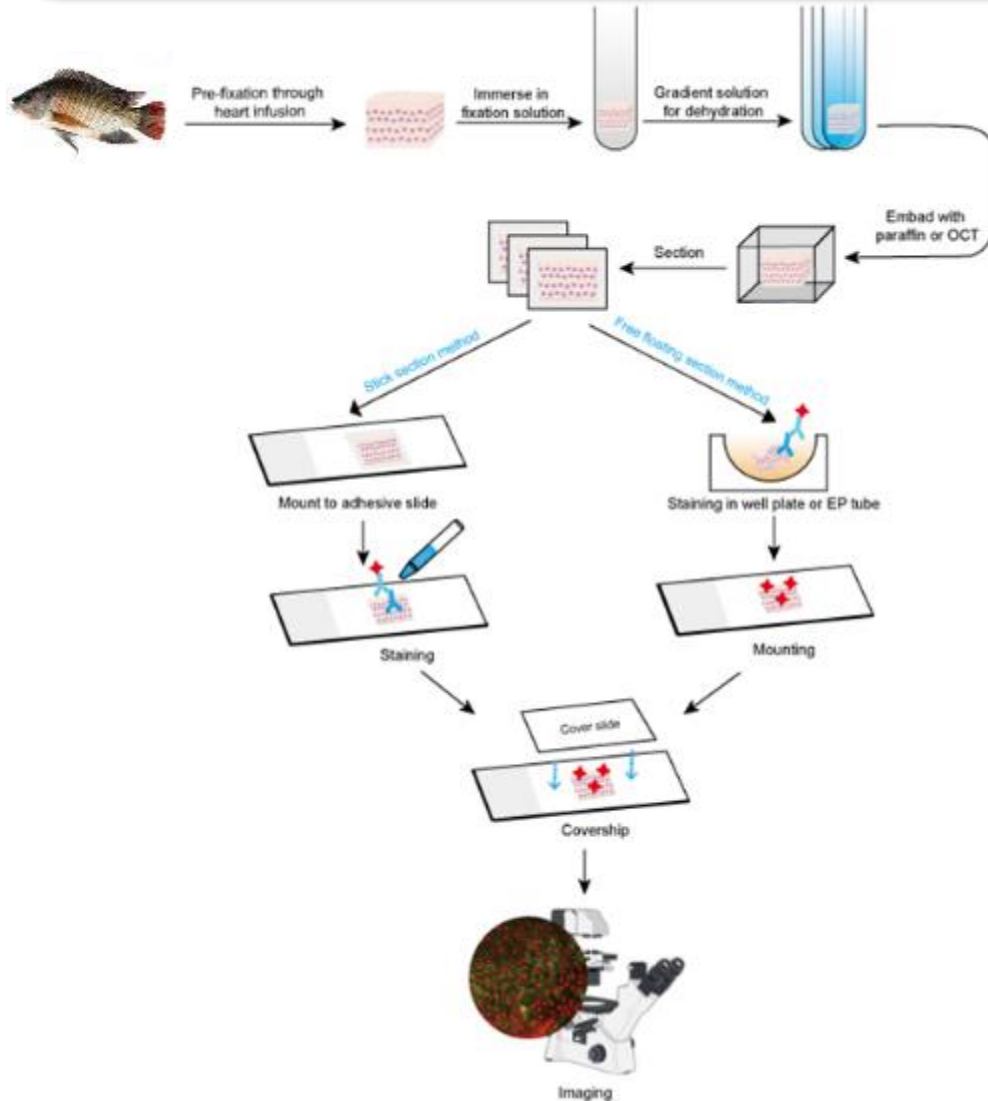
In situ hybridization of TiLV in the brain of infected fish



Credit: Dr.Attapon Kamlungdee Vet Patho KU

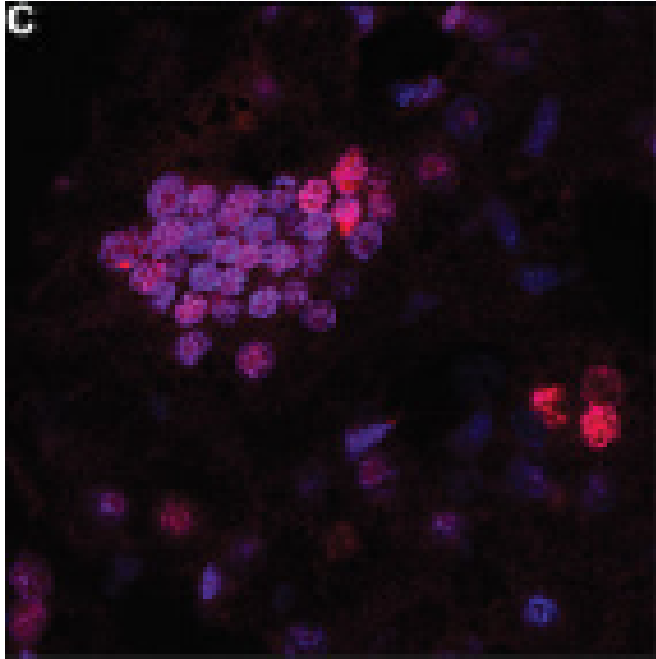
3. Immunofluorescence

Immunohistochemistry staining

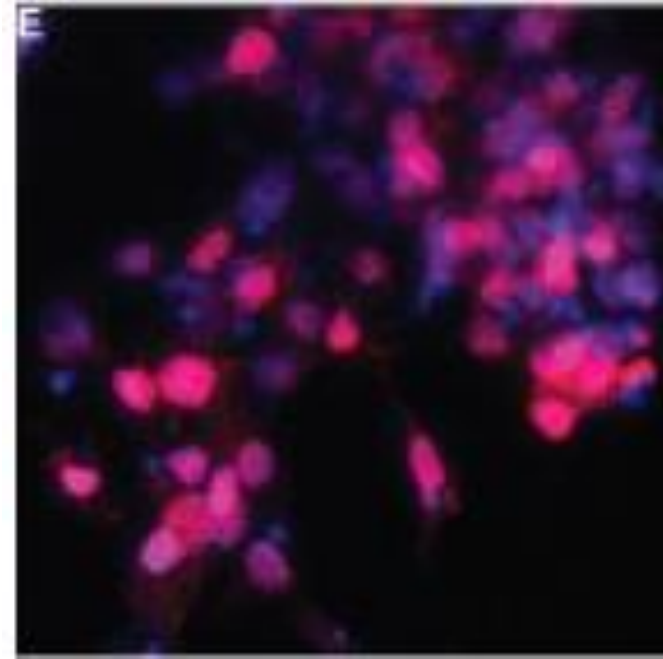


Concept: detection of antigen
Material: frozen tissue, cells (smear) or cultured cells

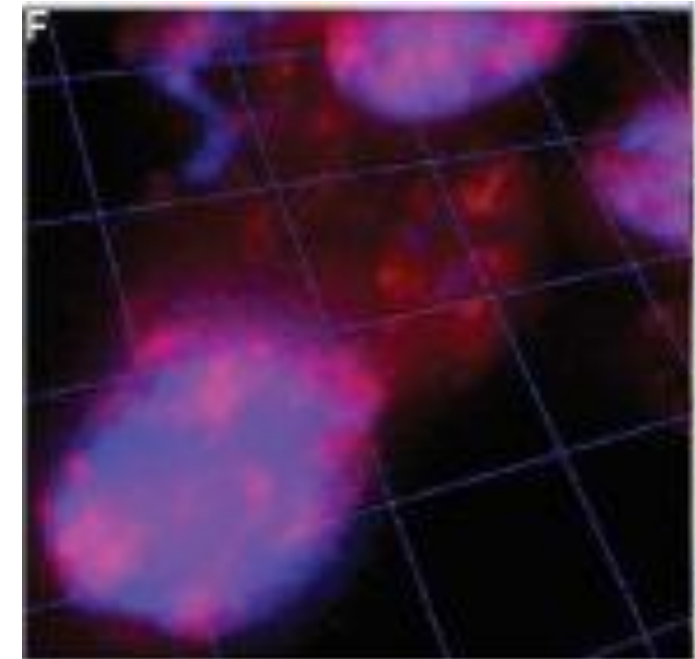
In situ hybridization with fluorescence probes



Liver sections
Cy3-conjugated (red) Stellaris probes to segment 3 to detect mRNA. Nuclei are stained with DAPI (blue).



TiLV-infected E-11 cells
Quasar 670-conjugated (red) Stellaris probe to segment 3 to detect TiLV mRNA. Nuclei are stained with DAPI (blue).

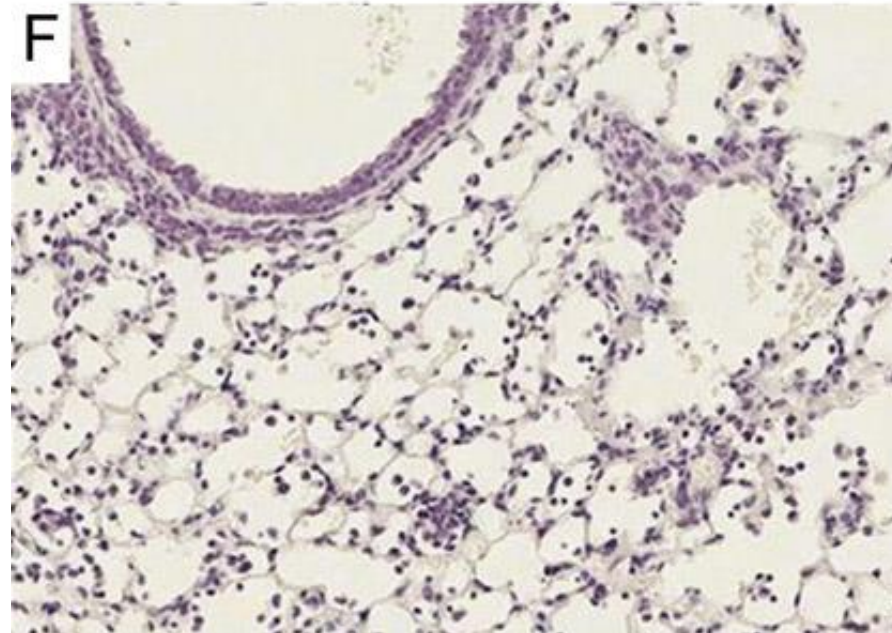
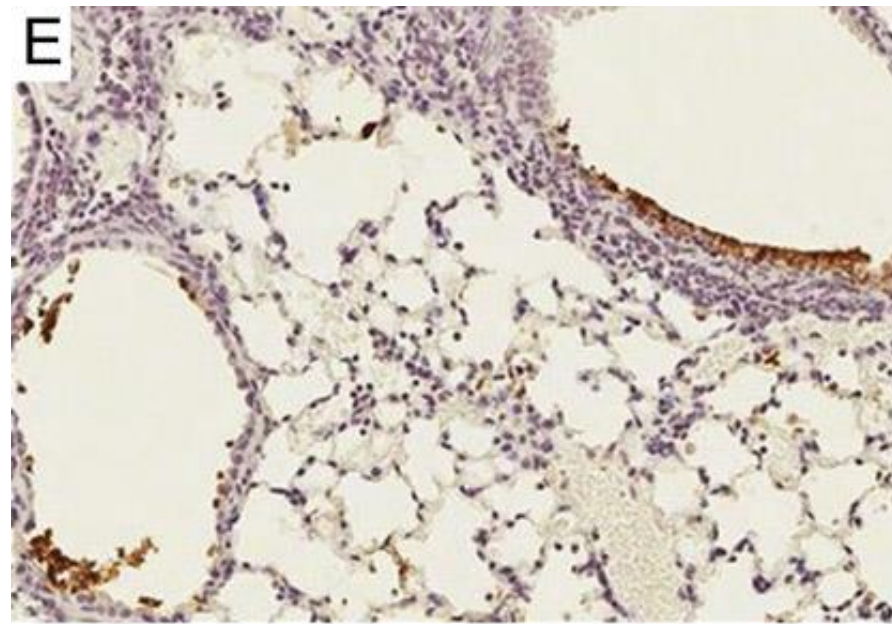


Images of confocal sections of cells in panel E were reconstituted into a 3D image.

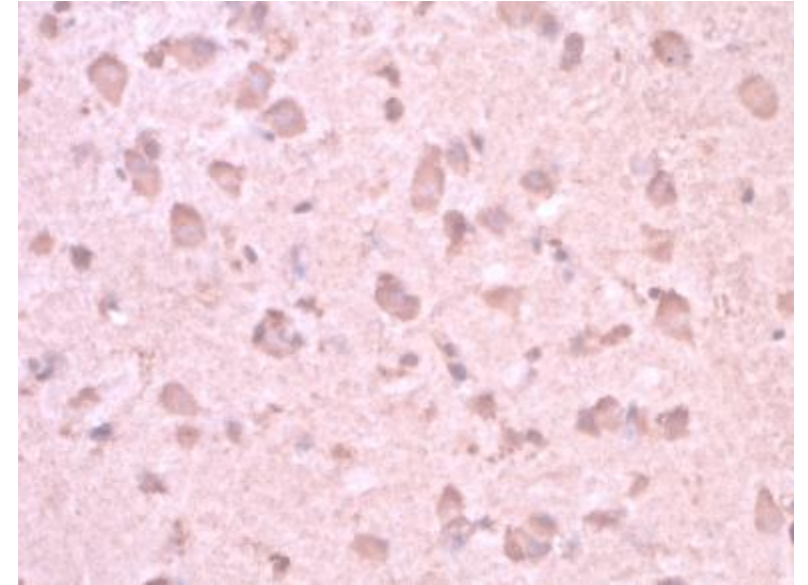
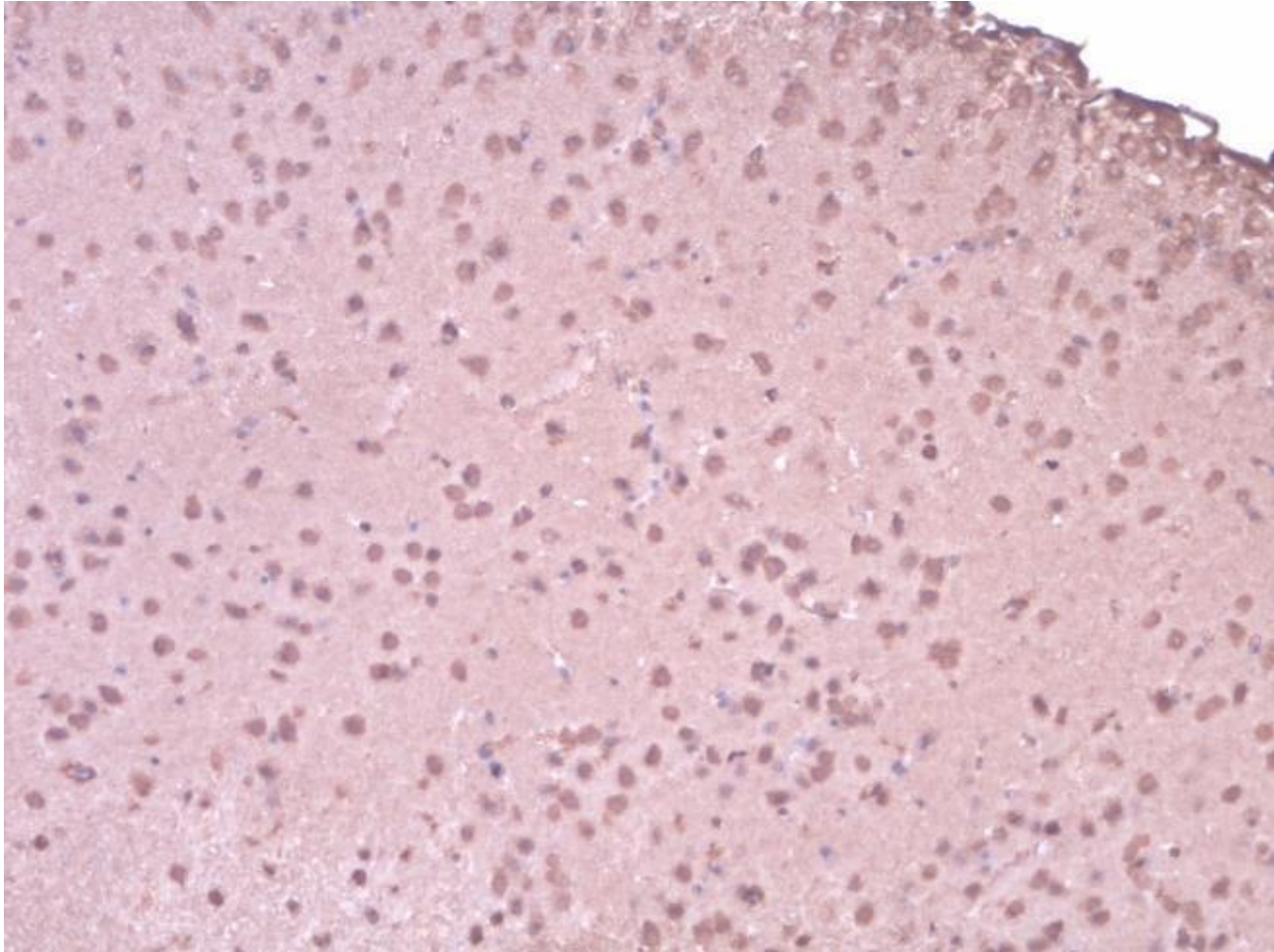
Bacharach et al., 2016 MBO

IHC staining of influenza A virus in mouse lung tissue

Brown staining indicates positive staining in cell's cytoplasm and/or nucleus.



Immunohistochemistry of TiLV-infected brain



Credit: Dr.Promptorn Raksaseri Faculty of Veterinary Science
Chulalongkorn University

4. Molecular techniques

- **Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)**
- **Quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)**
- **Insulated isothermal PCR (iiPCR)**

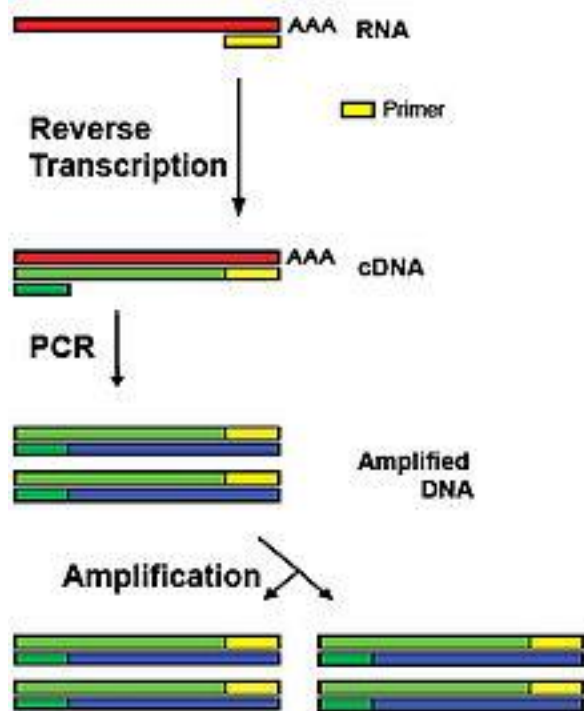
Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

- Several PCR methods have been described for the detection of TiLV including
conventional RT-PCR, semi-nested RT-PCR
- Recently, a SYBR green-based RT-qPCR method targeting the same segment was developed with a reported sensitivity of 2 copies

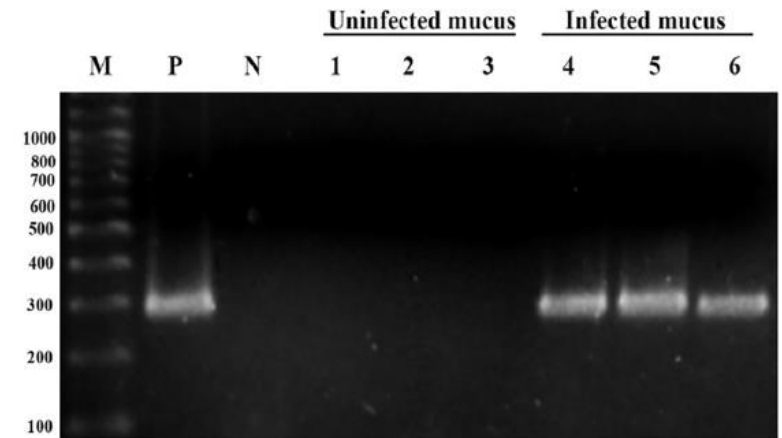
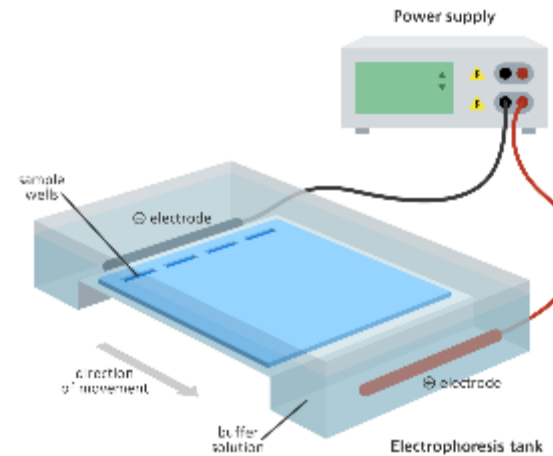
Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

TiLV = negative sense RNA genome

Thermo
cycler



Gel electrophoresis



Identification of a Novel RNA Virus Lethal to Tilapia

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

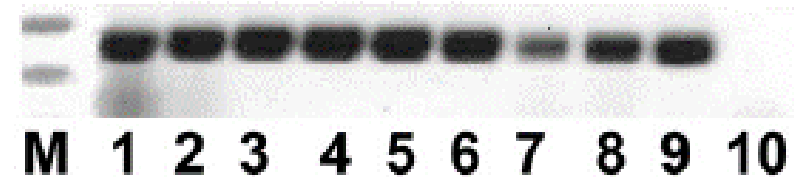
Department of Poultry and Fish Diseases, The Kimron Veterinary Institute, Bet Dagan, Israel^a; Department of Cell Research and Immunology, The George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel^b; The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel^c; Department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

1326 bases clone of 7450 segment 3

RT-PCR method based on the design of segment 3 of TiLV

```
GAAATGGACTCGCGGTTTGCACAGCTAACTGGGGTTTTCTGTGACGATTTCACTTATAGCGAA
GGGAGCCGAAAGTTCCCTAAGTTCCTTACAGTACAGTAGAGAGAOSTCCAGGAGTCCCCGTAGAG
GGTGACTGTATGACTGTTTGAAGAATAAGTGGATTGCTTTGAGCTGGAAGGCCAGCCGCGG
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CAAGGTACCGCAGATTGTAGGTACAATCAAGGATTATTTGGAGATCGACGGGGTTGTI
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TGATCGCTTTCGACGCCTTCGCTAAAGGT TACGACGTCTAATAGAGGATTATGGGAAAATTT
TGC
EMDSRFAQLTGVFCDFFTYSEGSRRLFLSSYSTVERRPQVPEVGDYDCLKNKWIAPFLEGGQFR
KFPKATVRCILNNDATYVCSQEQYQQIKVQPKDYLEIDGVVVKVGHKASYDAELRERLLELPH
PKSGPKPRIEWVAPRILADISKETAELKRQYGFPECCKFLACGEECGLDQEAARELILNEYARD
REFEPRNGGWQRYYVASHKPAQKILPLEASAPLARELLMLIARSTTQAGKVLHSDNTSILA
VPVMDSGKHSKRRTASTHHLVVGLSKPGCEHDFEFDGYRAAVHVMHLDPKQSANIGEQQDFV
STREIYKLDMLELPPISRRGDLDRASGLETRWDVILLLECLDSTRVRSQVAQHFNRHRLALS
V
CKDEPRKGYQLASEIRGTIPLSSLYSLCAVRLRMTVHPPAR
```

B



Lane 1-7 infected fish

Lane 8-9 infected E-11 cells

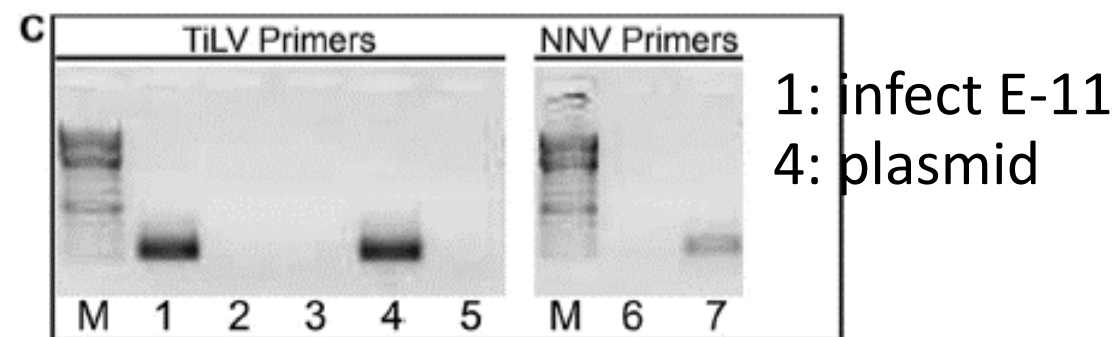
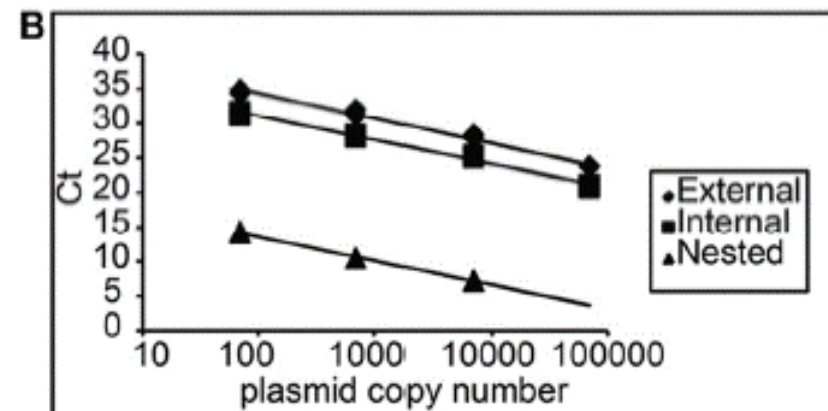
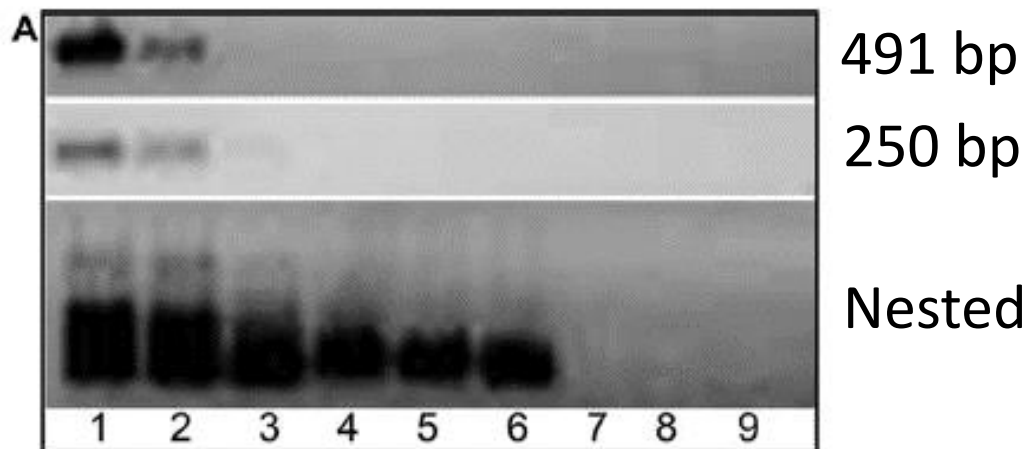
Lane 10 healthy fish

Detection of Tilapia Lake Virus in Clinical Samples by Culturing and Nested Reverse Transcription-PCR

Japhette Esther Kembou Tsofack,^a Rachel Zamostiano,^a Salsabeel Watted,^b Asaf Berkowitz,^b Ezra Rosenbluth,^b Nischay Mishra,^c Thomas Briese,^c W. Ian Lipkin,^c Richard M. Kabuusu,^d Hugh Ferguson,^d Jorge del Pozo,^e Avi Eldar,^b Eran Bacharach^a

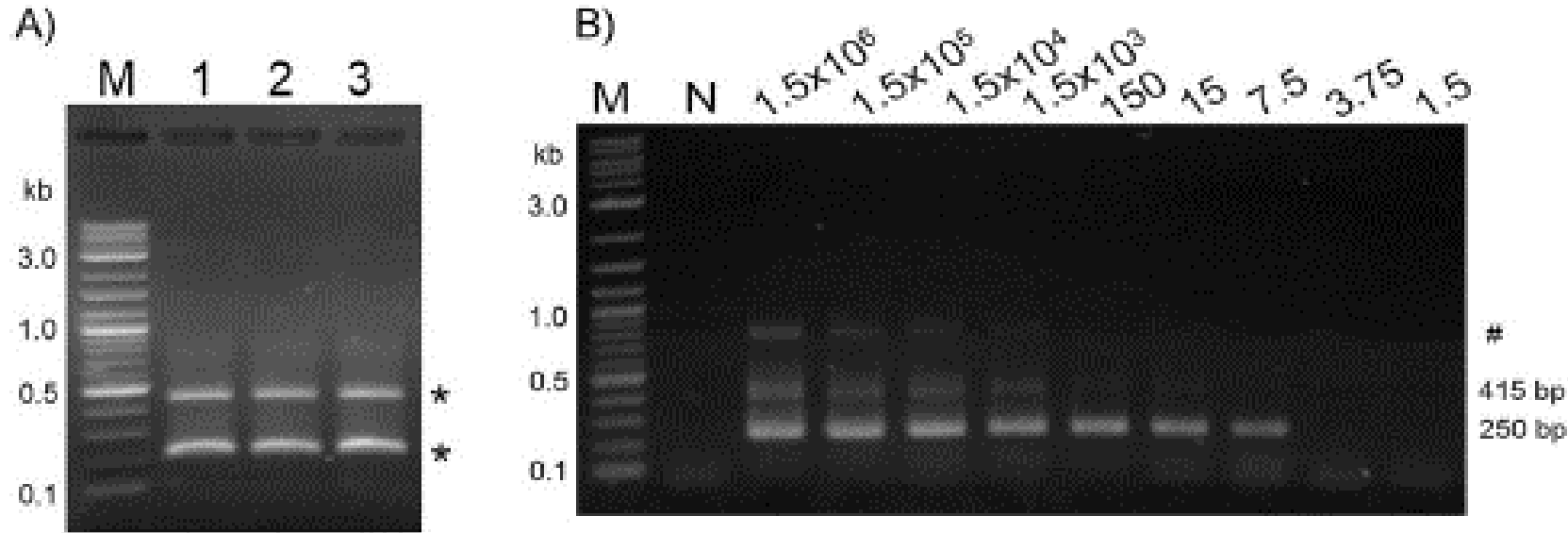
qPCR reaction using primers in (A)

Sensitivity of PCR, and nested PCR



RT-PCR method based on the design of segment 3 of TiLV

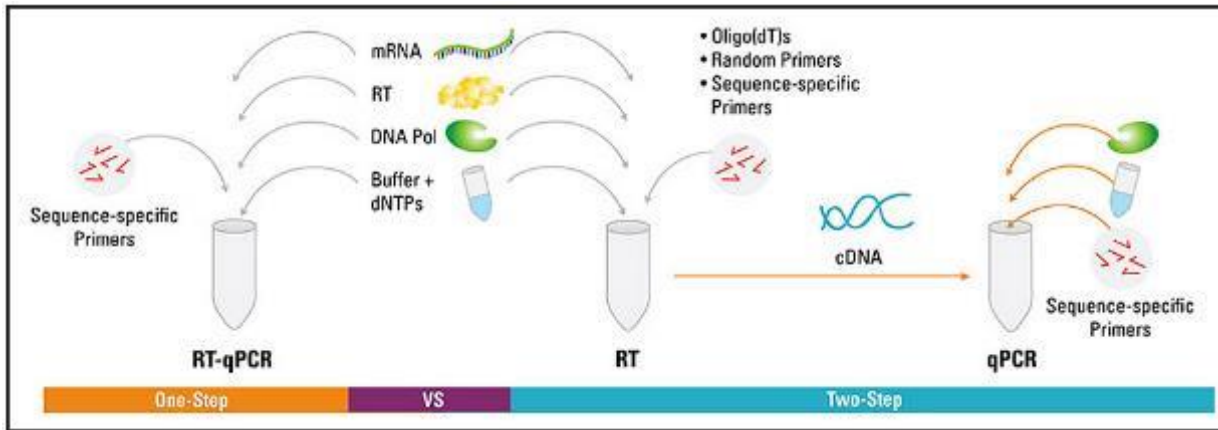
Semi-nested RT-PCR for TiLV detection



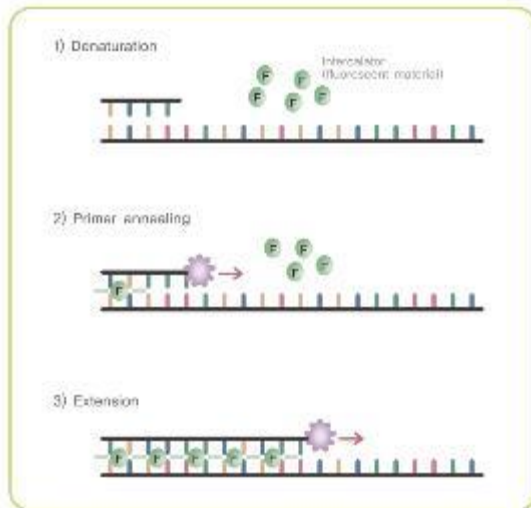
Three nested RT-PCR reactions run at an annealing temperature 56 °C non-specifically amplified fish mRNA

- #Marks band probably derived from cross hybridizations of the amplified products. M, DNA marker
- Serial dilutions of positive control plasmid (pGEM-415_bp) are indicated. Expected band sizes of 415 bp and 250 bp represent amplicons from the first and seminested.
- Expected band sizes of 415 bp and 250 bp represent amplicons from the first and seminested PCR

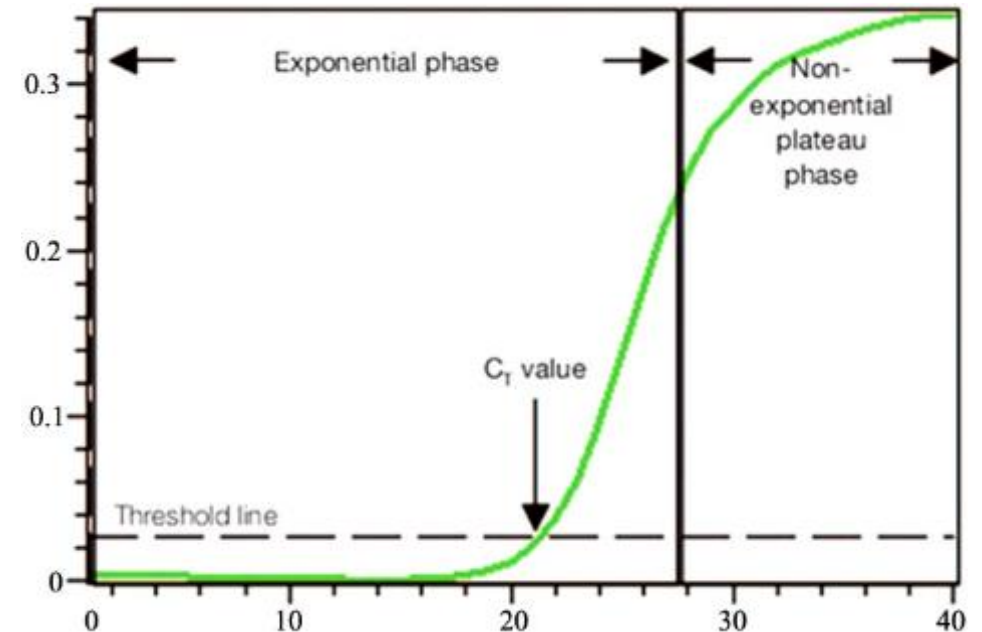
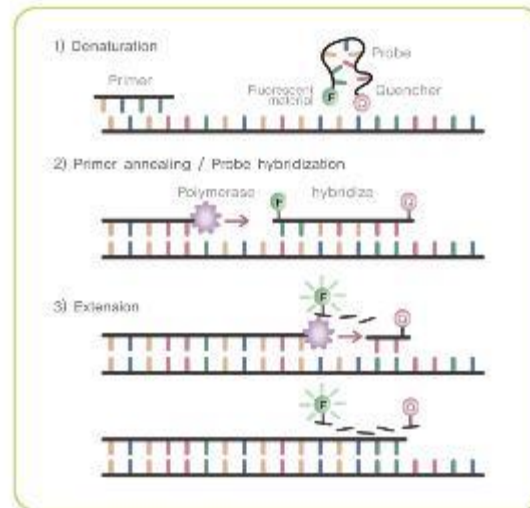
Quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)




SYBR Green Detection

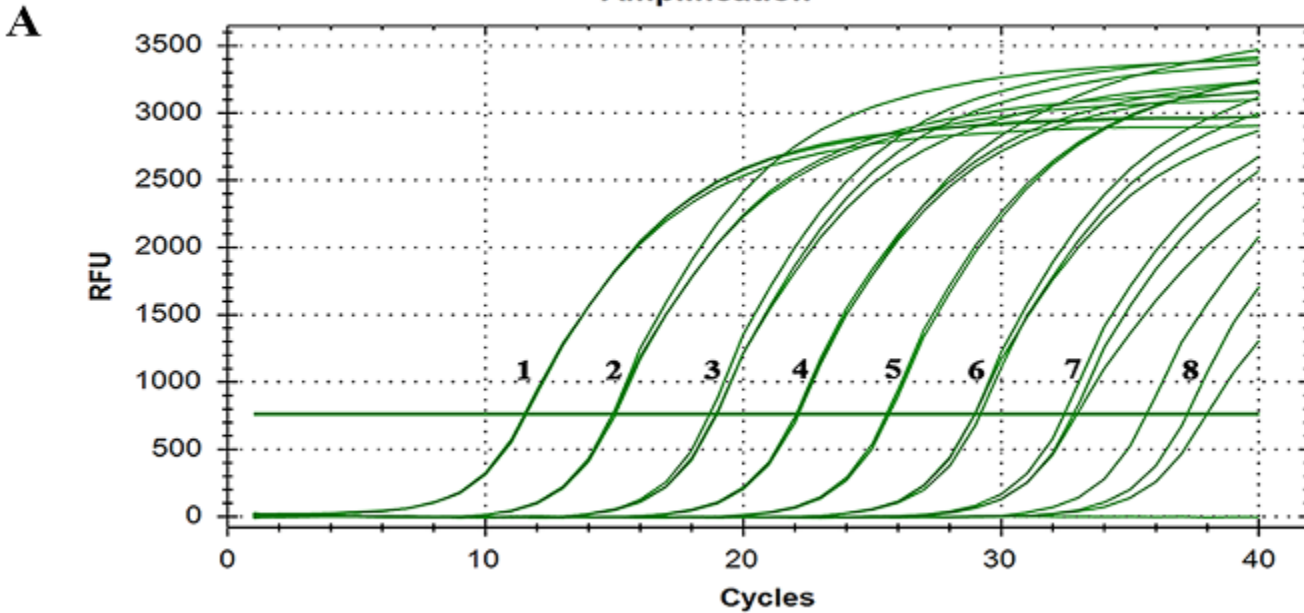


Taqman-Probe Detection

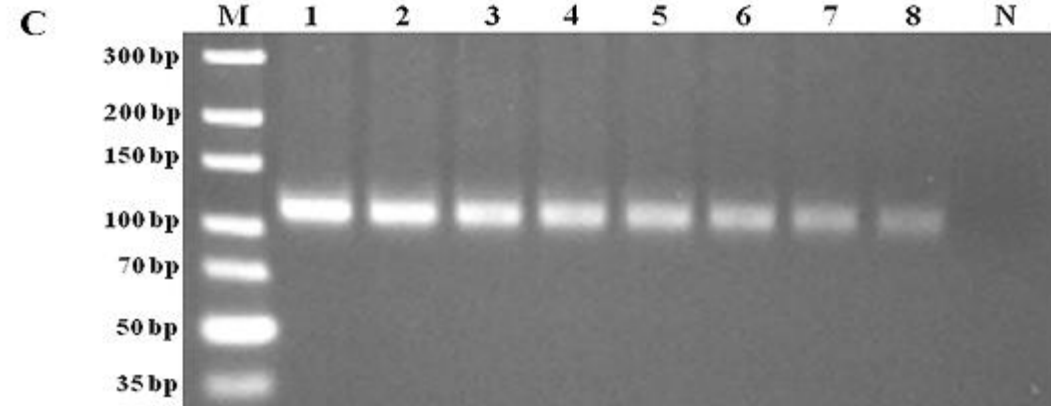
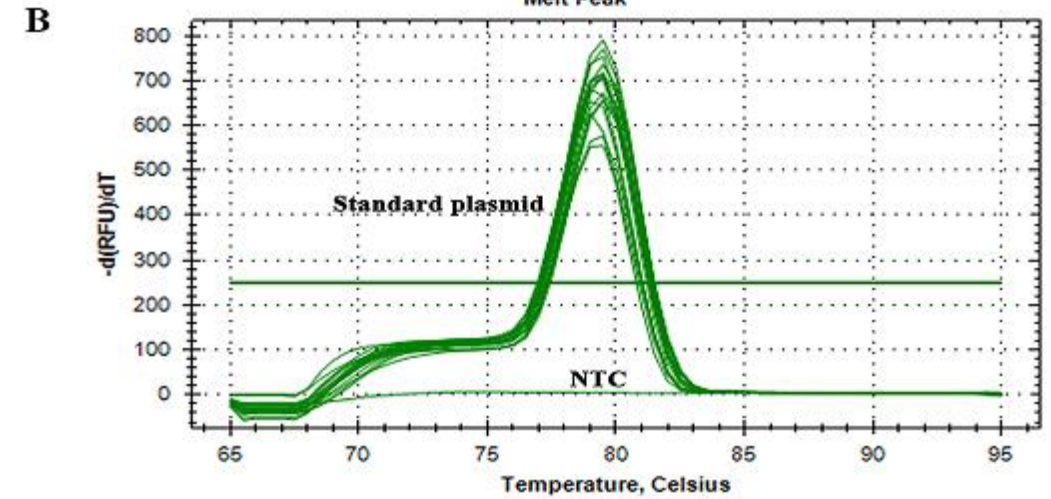


Development and validation of a reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction for tilapia lake virus detection in clinical samples and experimentally challenged fish

P Tattiyapong^{1,2} | K Sirikanchana^{3,4} | W Surachetpong^{1,2} 



Amplification curve of serially ten-fold dilution



Melt curve and gel electrophoresis

Standard curve of SYBR green-based RT-qPCR

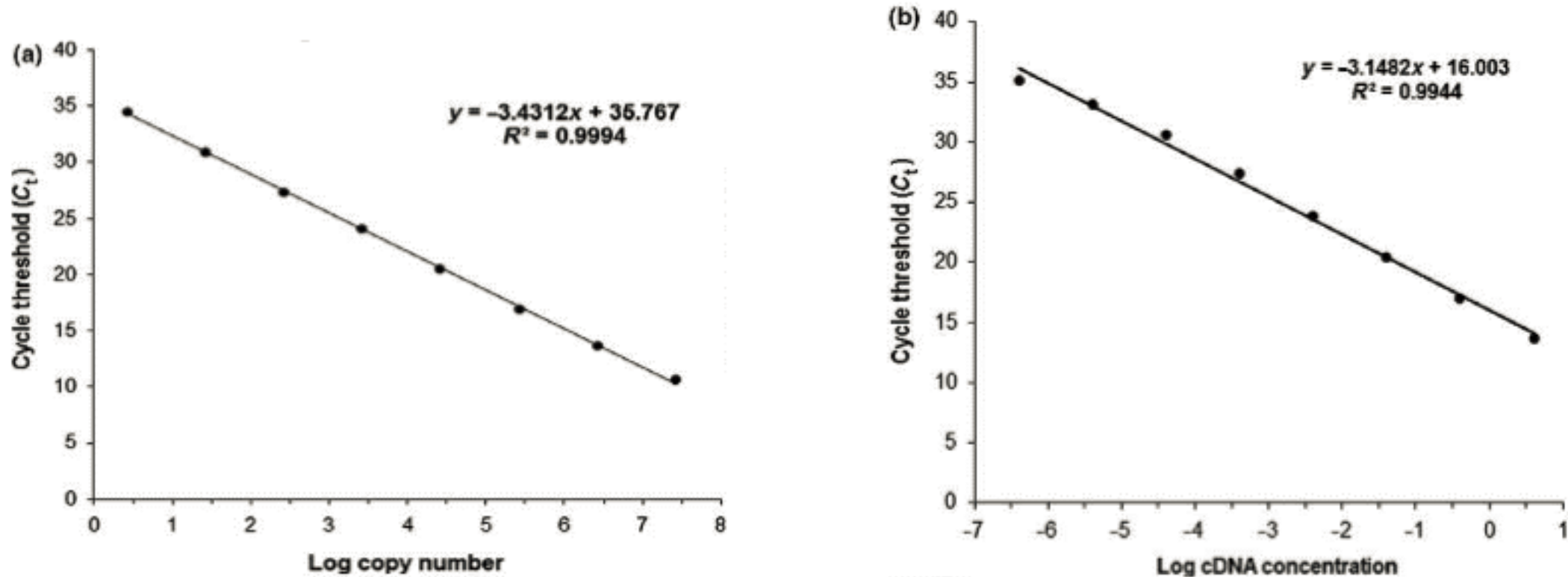
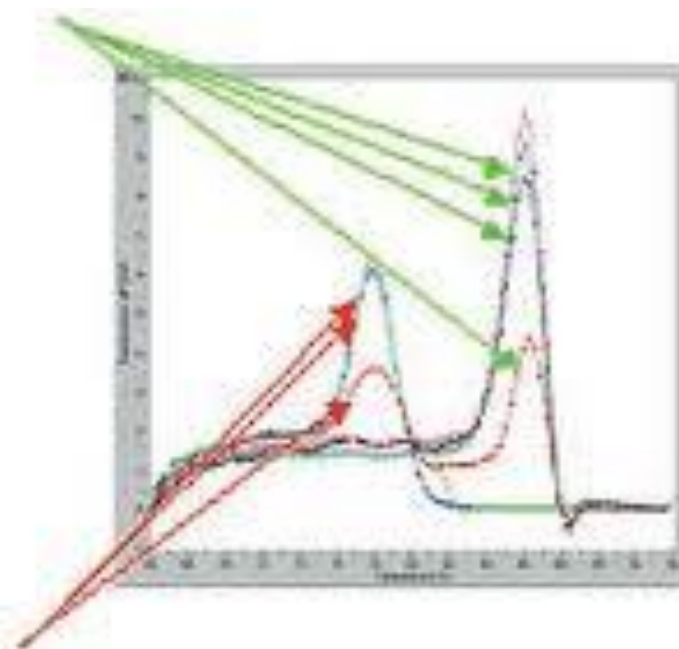
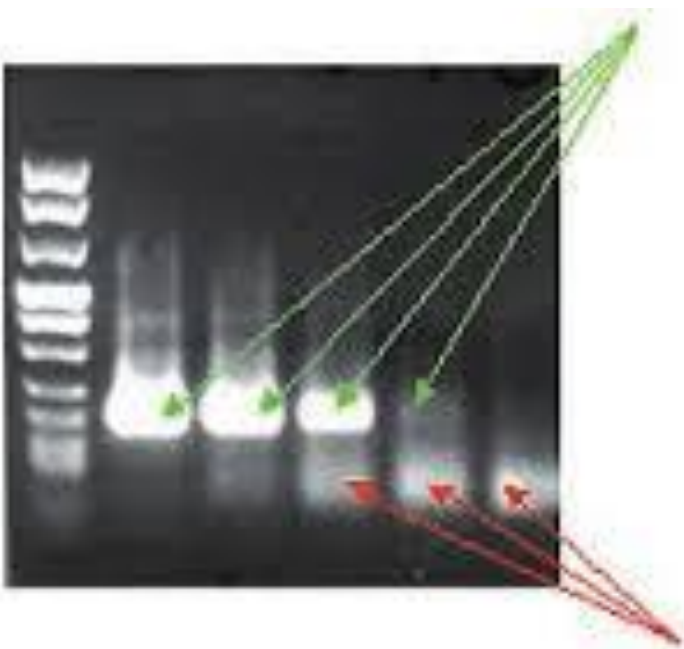
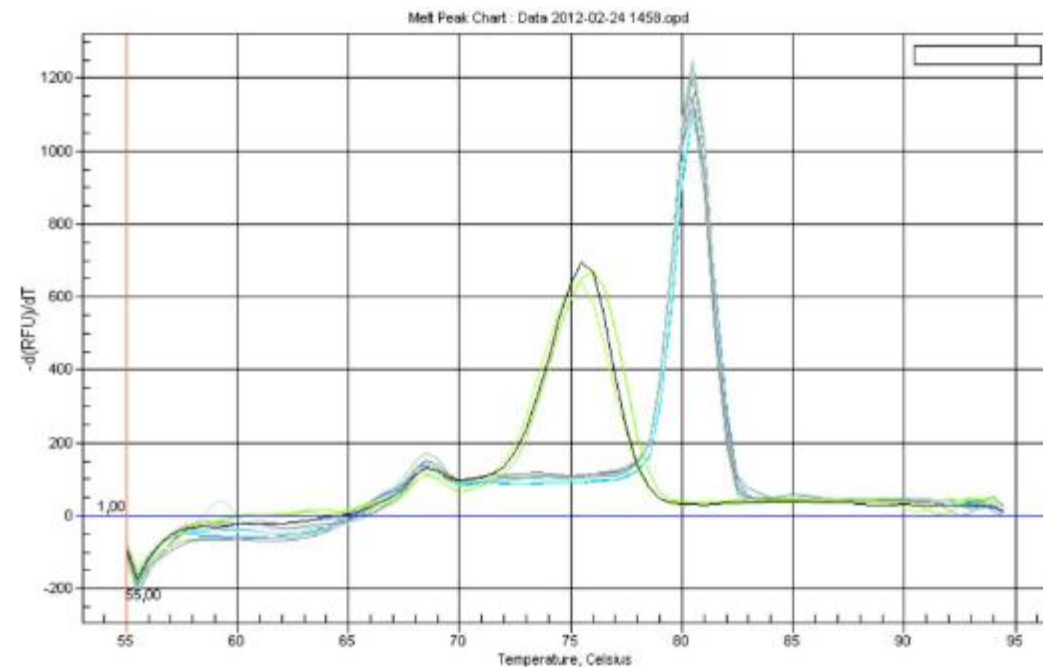


FIGURE 1 Standard curve of SYBR green-based RT-qPCR amplification of plasmid pTiLV containing segment three of TiLV and infected tissue. (a) Standard curve was plotted between mean C_t values obtained from each dilution of standard plasmid pTiLV against calculated log copy number (slope = -3.4312, $R^2 = 0.9994$). (b) Standard curve of cDNA prepared from TiLV-infected fish tissue showed slopes = -3.1482, $R^2 = 0.994$

Primer-dimer formation (SYBR)

- **Must run melting curve analysis**



Validation of qPCR assay with field collected samples

Supplementary Table 1 List of field samples and estimated TiLV copies in liver

Sample No.	Collection date	Locations	Mean Ct values	Viral loads ^a
1	30/10/2015	Ang Thong	23.52	1.06×10^4
2	11/11/2015	Ang Thong	22.75	1.77×10^4
3	05/01/2016	Pathum Thani	24.70	4.75×10^3
4	19/01/2016	Ratchaburi	22.37	2.28×10^4
5	02/08/2016	Pathum Thani	15.21	2.80×10^6
6	05/08/2016	Pathum thani	26.66	1.28×10^3
7	16/08/2016	Ratchaburi	13.31	9.95×10^6
8	22/08/2016	Ang Thong	18.09	4.00×10^5
9	24/08/2016	Nakhon Pathom	13.52	8.67×10^6
10	27/08/2016	Nakhon Pathom	28.82	3.00×10^2
11	02/09/2016	Suphanburi	25.13	3.60×10^3
12	16/09/2016	Pathum Thani	22.30	2.39×10^4
13	23/09/2016	Nong Khai	13.66	7.90×10^6
14	02/10/2016	Pathum Thani	12.83	1.37×10^7
15	05/10/2016	Pathum Thani	19.46	1.61×10^5

Supplementary Table 1 (Cont.) List of field samples and estimated TiLV copies in liver

Sample No.	Collection date	Locations	Mean Ct values	Viral loads ^a
16	16/10/2016	Pathum Thani	19.20	1.94×10^5
17	25/11/2016	Ang Thong	14.56	4.35×10^6
18	26/11/2016	Pathum Thani	13.46	9.08×10^6
19	21/12/2016	Petchaburi	17.16	7.55×10^5
20	14/11/2016	Khon Kaen	19.45	1.62×10^5
21	01/01/2017	Pathum Thani	21.11	5.35×10^4
22	14/02/2017	Nakhon Sawan	16.72	1.01×10^6
23	20/02/2017	Uthai Thani	13.26	1.04×10^7
24	24/02/2017	Phitsanulok	27.84	5.85×10^2
25	24/02/2017	Uttaradit	32.89	1.97×10^1
26	25/02/2017	Ratchaburi	25.39	3.01×10^3
27	25/02/2017	Nakhon Si Thammarat	19.87	1.22×10^5
28	25/02/2017	Prachinburi	16.21	1.43×10^6
29	25/02/2017	Nakhon Nayok	14.36	4.98×10^6
30	25/02/2017	Ang Thong	18.76	2.55×10^5

Detection of TiLV in clinical samples using RT-qPCR method

Fish samples	Number of samples	TiLV positive (%)	Mean Ct values (range)	Estimated viral loads (Copy numbers) ^c
Clinical samples ^a	30	30/30 (100)	22.86 (12.83 - 32.89)	1.65×10^4 (1.37×10^7 - 1.97×10^1)
TiLV-challenged fish	10	10/10 (100)	23.65 (20.08 - 27.28)	9.72×10^3 (1.00×10^5 - 8.50×10^2)
Non-challenged fish	10	0/10 (0)	ND ^b	ND ^b

^aClinical samples were collected from 30 field outbreaks with history of massive mortality.

^bND = No detection.

^cCopy numbers of TiLV template per μ g of total RNA.

Development and validation of a reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction for tilapia lake virus detection in clinical samples and experimentally challenged fish

P Tattiyapong^{1,2} | K Sirikanjana^{3,4} | W Surachetpong^{1,2} 

Table 4 Comparison of RT-qPCR, conventional RT-PCR and virus isolation in cell culture

Detection method	Template dilution							
	10 ⁻¹	10 ⁻²	10 ⁻³	10 ⁻⁴	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁷	10 ⁻⁸
RT-qPCR	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Conventional RT-PCR	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
Virus isolation in cell culture	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-

Development and validation of a reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction for tilapia lake virus detection in clinical samples and experimentally challenged fish

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Table 3 Analysis of viral loads in different tissues

Sample No.	Viral loads (copies μg^{-1} of total RNA)					
	<i>Gills</i>	<i>Liver</i>	<i>Brain</i>	<i>Heart</i>	<i>Anterior kidney</i>	<i>Spleen</i>
1	2.2×10^5	1.7×10^5	3.4×10^5	6.3×10^5	1.6×10^5	2.3×10^4
2	3.1×10^5	6.3×10^3	1.3×10^6	3.9×10^5	3.1×10^5	2.8×10^4



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Short communication

A TaqMan RT-qPCR assay for tilapia lake virus (TiLV) detection in tilapia

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Skorn Mongkolsuk^{c,d}, Pamela Nicholson^e, Win Surachetpong^{a,b,*}

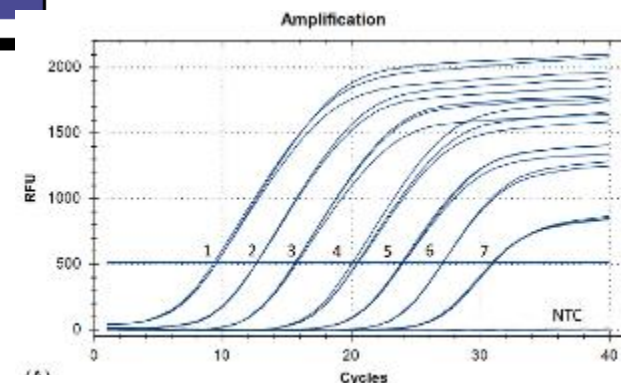


Table 2

Detection of TiLV-infected fish collected from different geographic locations using TaqMan RT-qPCR.

Fish samples	Number of samples	TiLV positive (%)
Positive sample		
Nile tilapia	7	100
Red tilapia	10	100
Negative sample		
Nile tilapia	5	0
Red tilapia	6	0

ND: no fluorescence detection.

Non-lethal sampling for Tilapia Lake Virus detection by RT-qPCR and cell culture



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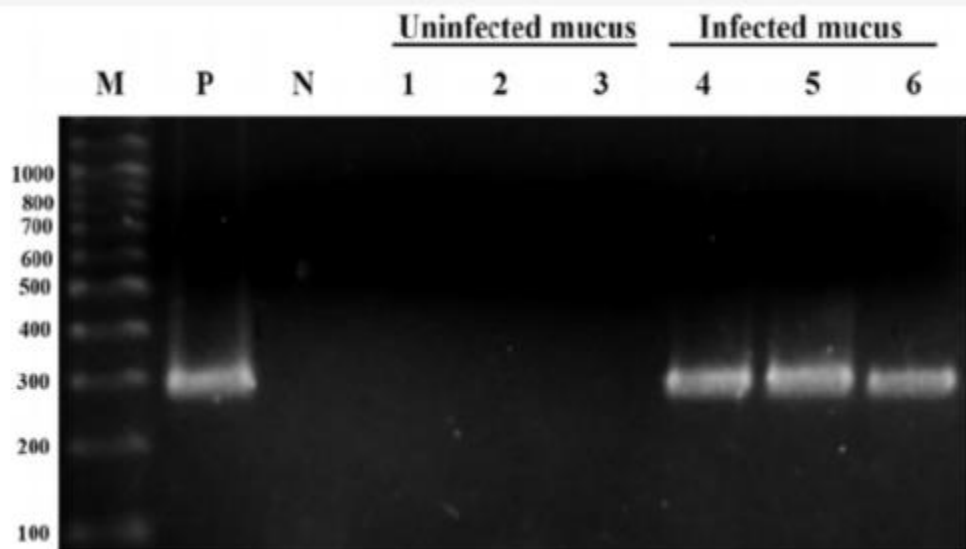
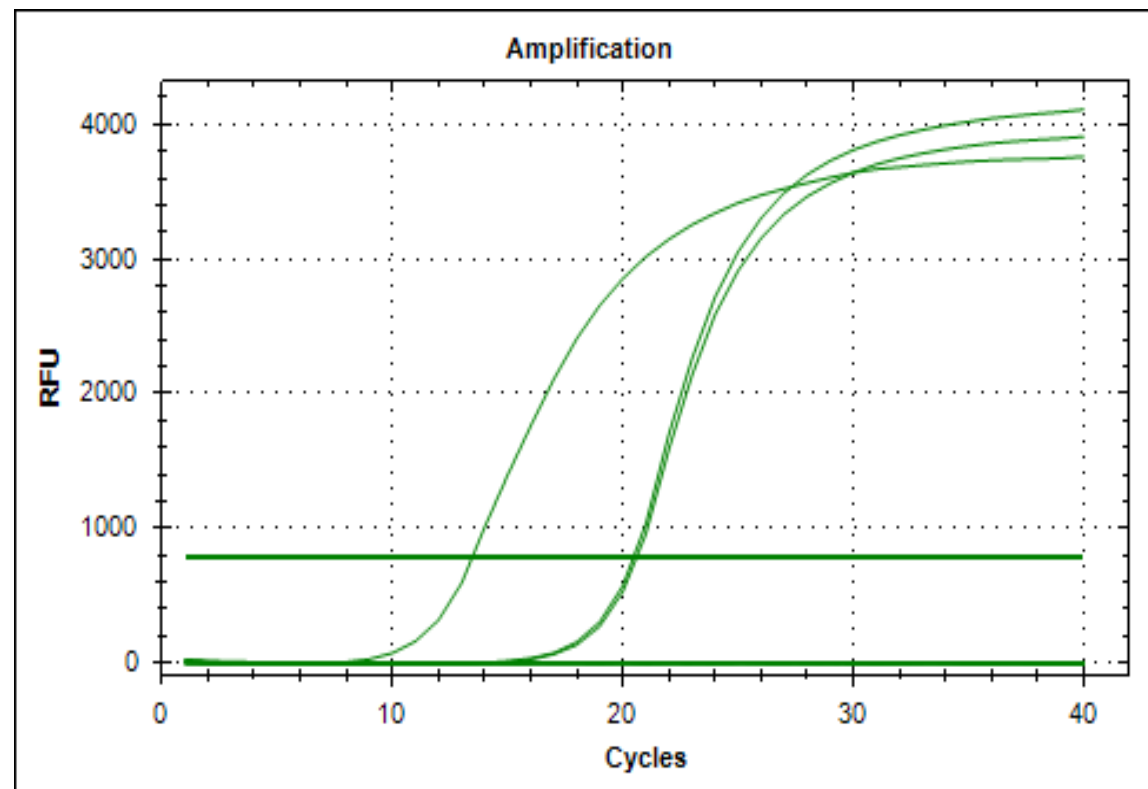


Fig. 2. Amplification of PCR products from E-11 cells inoculated with uninfected or TiLV-infected mucus. (M) 100 bp marker; P = Positive control (pTiLV), N = No template control, Lanes 1–3; E-11 inoculated with mucus from normal fish (uninfected mucus), Lanes 4–6; E-11 inoculated with mucus from TiLV-positive fish (infected mucus). The uninfected and infected mucus analysis was based on three clinical samples representing different geographic locations.



On farm diagnostic PCR for TiLV detection

- A commercial pond-site TiLV RT-PCR detection assay based on insulated isothermal PCR (iiPCR) is available
- **POCKIT™ Micro (GeneBeach Biotechnology Corp.)**
- Assay can be completed in 45 min
- Rapid, inexpensive, sensitive, easy to maintain

POCKIT™ Micro (GeneBeach Biotechnology Corp.) Insulated isothermal PCR (iiPCR)



www.genereach.com

Commercial pond-site
TiLV RT-PCR detection

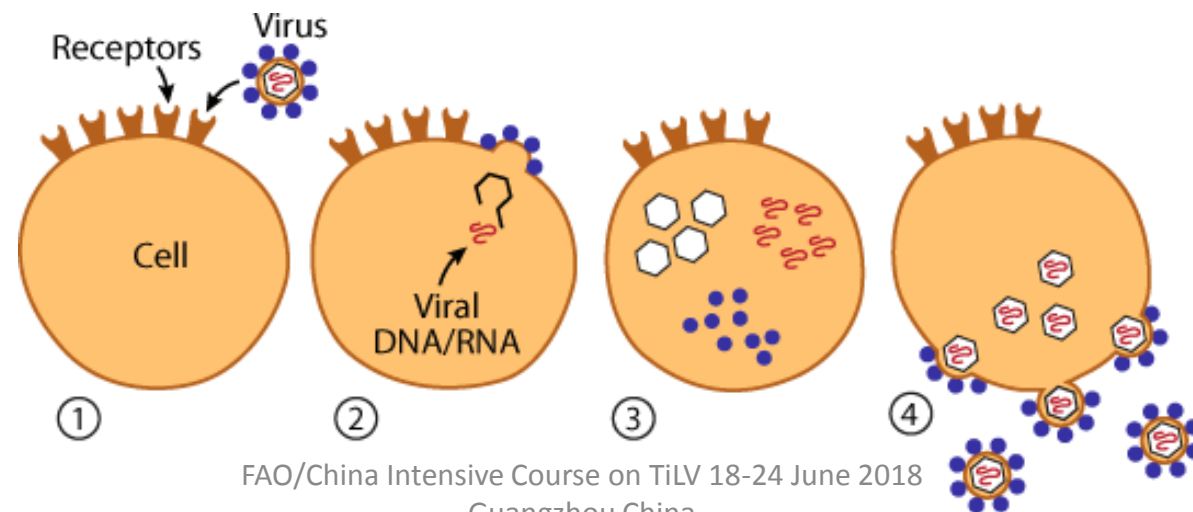


The TiLV RT-PCR has a limit of
detection LoD95% of **12 genome**

Indirect Examination

1. Cell Culture methods

2. Laboratory animals



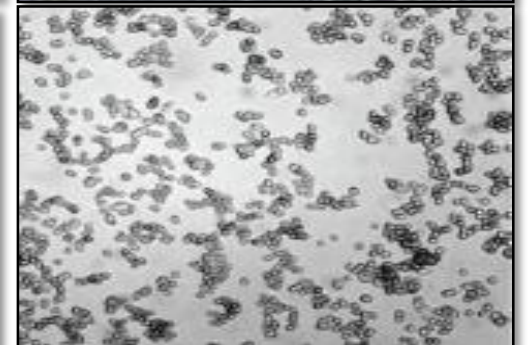
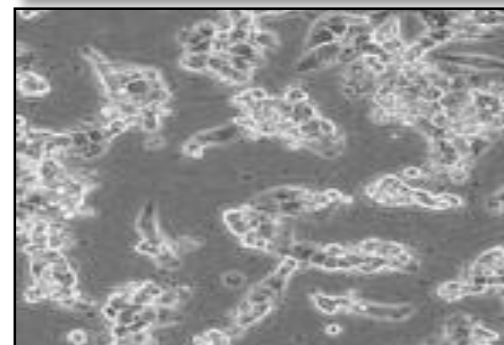
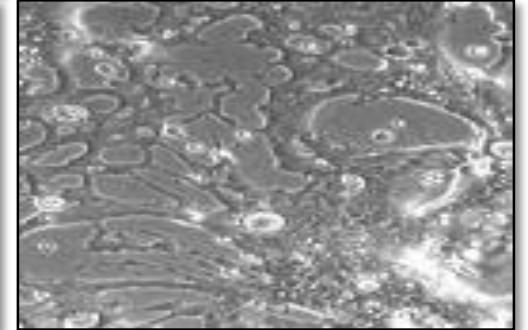
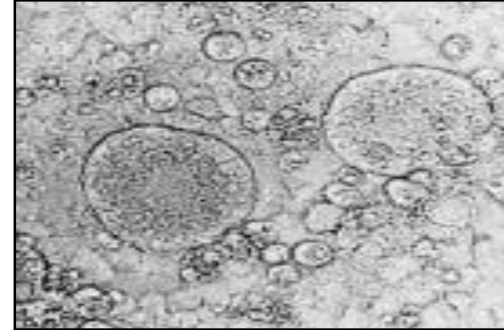
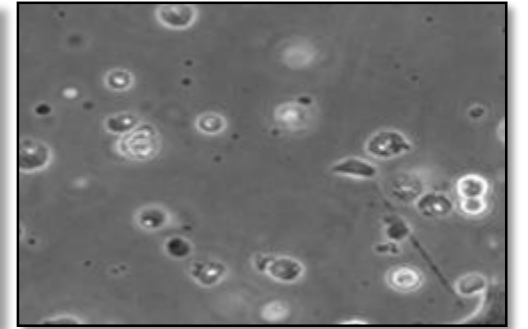
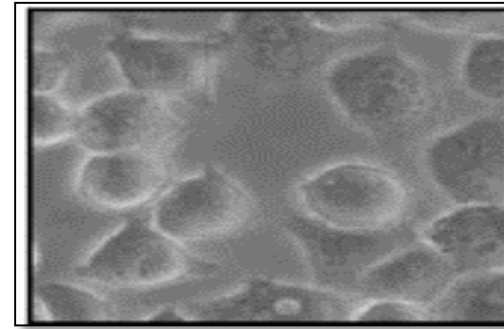
1. Cell culture methods

- Since the discovery by Enders (1949) that polioviruses could be cultured in cells, cell culture has become a very useful and convenient method for isolating viruses *in vitro*
- **Gold standard for virus isolation and identification**

Cytopathic effects (CPE)

Morphological changes occurring in viral infection

1. Rounding
2. Detachment
3. Syncytia or fusion
4. Shrinkage
5. Increased refractivity
6. Aggregation
7. Loss of adherence
8. Cell lysis or death



TiLV viral isolation

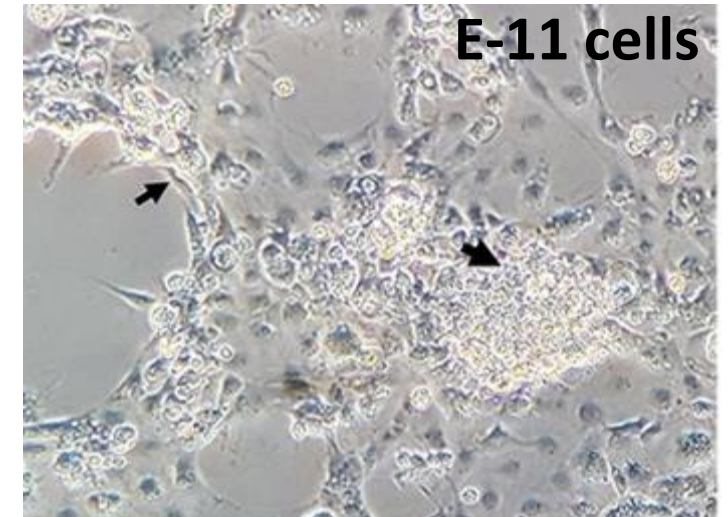


Clinical specimens

- Organ and tissue
- Mucus



Virus cultivation in cell culture



Observe CPE in viral replicated cells

2. Laboratory animals

- Play an essential role in the studies of viral pathogenesis
- Routes of viral inoculation
 - Intracerebral
 - Subcutaneous
 - Intraperitoneal
 - Intranasal
- After inoculation, the animal is:
 - Observed for signs of disease or visible lesions
 - Euthanized so that infected tissues can be examined





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



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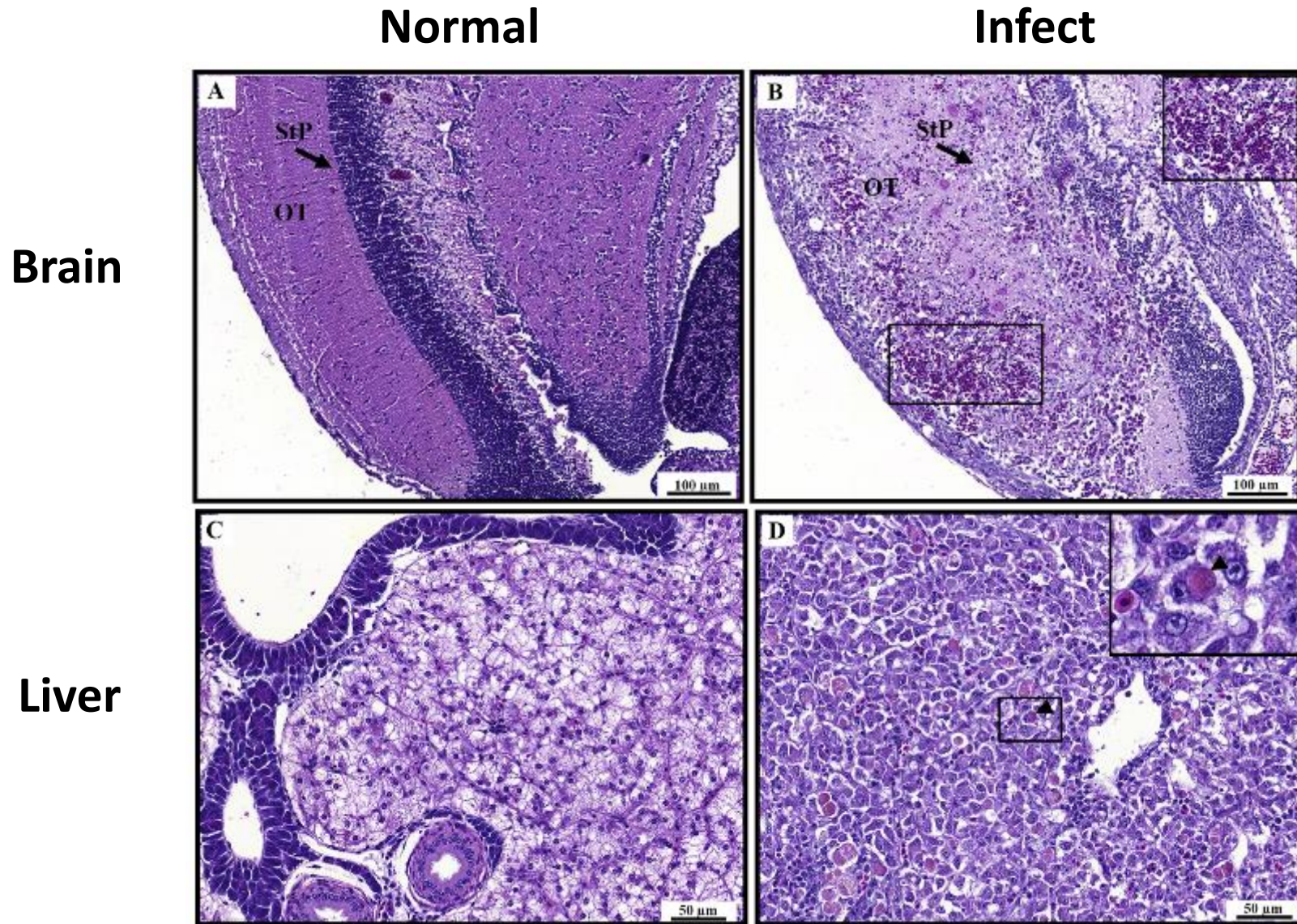
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Gross signs of fish from field outbreak

Gross signs of fish from lab challenge

Histopathology of TiLV-challenged fish



Serology

Classical techniques

- Complement fixation test
- Haemagglutination inhibition test
- Neutralization test

Advanced techniques

- Immunoassay (ELISA etc.)
- Western blot



Classical techniques

- Neutralization test

- Detects the presence of viral neutralizing antibodies
- Complete blockage of viral activity
 - No cell infection (no CPE)

Original Article

Validation of a serum neutralization test for detection of antibodies specific to cyprinid herpesvirus 3 in infected common and koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)

J Cabon, L Louboutin, J Castric, S Bergmann, G Bovo, M Matras, O Haenen, N J Olesen, T Morin✉

- ***Neutralizing antibodies were steadily detected in infected carp*** subjected to restrictive or permissive temperature variations over more than 25 months post-infection. The results suggest that this non-lethal diagnostic test could be used in the future to improve the epidemiological surveillance and control of CyHV-3 disease.

Development and Evaluation of a Blocking Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay and Virus Neutralization Assay To Detect Antibodies to Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus






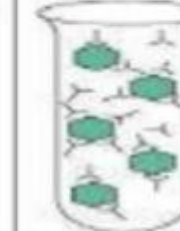


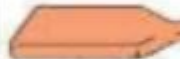



Anna Wilson,^a Tony Goldberg,^a Susan Marcquenski,^b Wendy Olson,^c Frederick Goetz,^d Paul Hershberger,^e Lucas Hart,^e Kathy Toohey-Kurth^{a,f}

TABLE 4 Results of VN assay^a

VHS infection status	No. of known positives (<i>n</i> = 28)	No. of known negatives (<i>n</i> = 34)
Positive	12	0
Negative	16	34

^a *n* = 62. The sensitivity is 42.9% and the specificity is 100%, both calculated from fish in the VHS-negative and VHS-positive groups.

Development of VN for TiLV

Patient serum (dilution)	0	0	1/1000	1/100	1/10	1
Virus concentration	0	5000 pfu	5000 pfu	5000 pfu	5000 pfu	5000 pfu
Virus concentration						
CELL CULTURE serum/virus mixture	 No virus	 CPE	 CPE	 No CPE	 No CPE	 No CPE
		Infection		Neutralization		



Neutralization test (limitation)

- The test was not very specific
 - Fish has predominant IgM subtype in serum (low specificity)
 - Absence of affinity maturation in B-lymphocytes

ELISA

- Immunoassay (ELISA)
 - Uses antibodies and color change to identify a substance (antigen)
 - Adsorb certain components onto an immobilized solid phase
 - Color development by the product of an enzymatic reaction

Sandwich ELISA

*A detecting antibody and an enzyme-linked secondary antibody may also be used

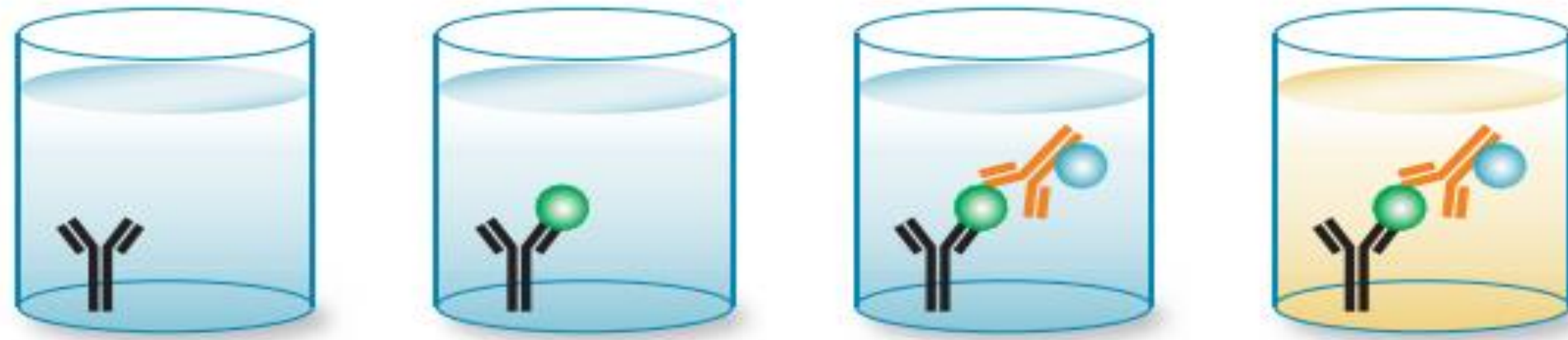


Plate is coated with a capture antibody

Sample is added, and any antigen present binds to capture antibody

Enzyme-linked detecting antibody is added, and binds to antigen

Substrate is added, and is converted by enzyme to detectable form

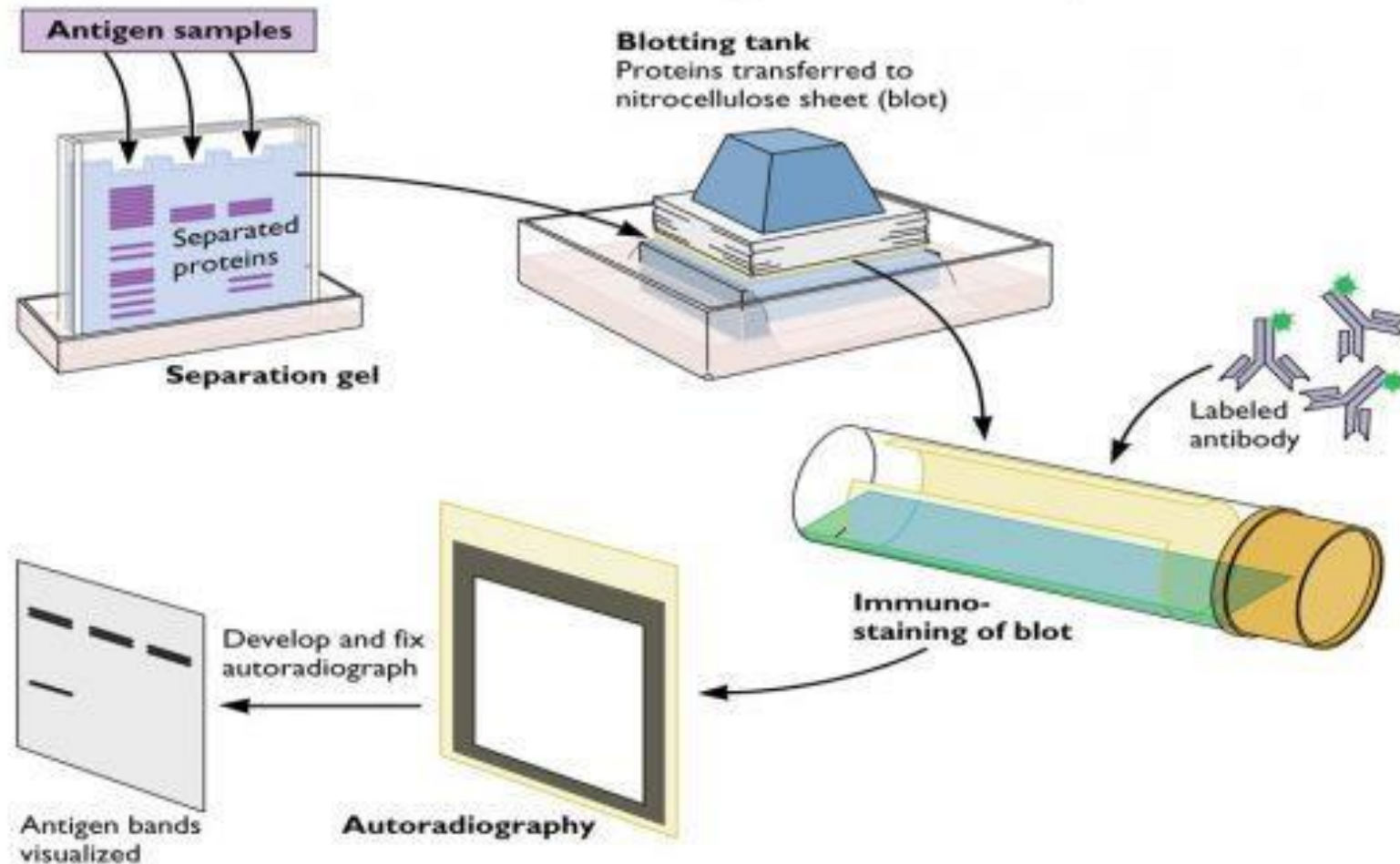
Proteomic study

- Western blot

- Identification of particular protein from a sample
- Uses antibodies to detect target protein/antigen (Immunoblotting)

Proteomic study

Western Blotting Technique



SDS-PAGE and Western blot analysis

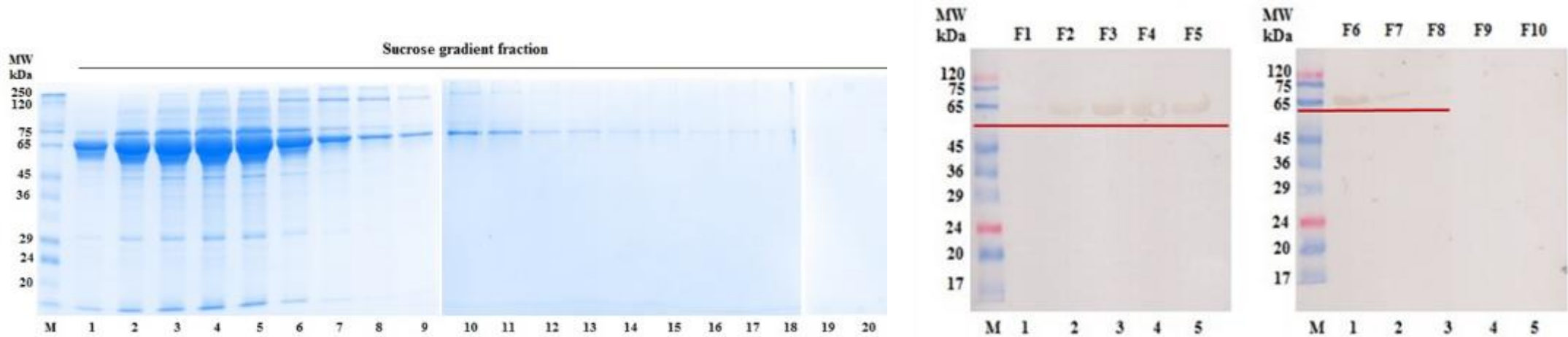
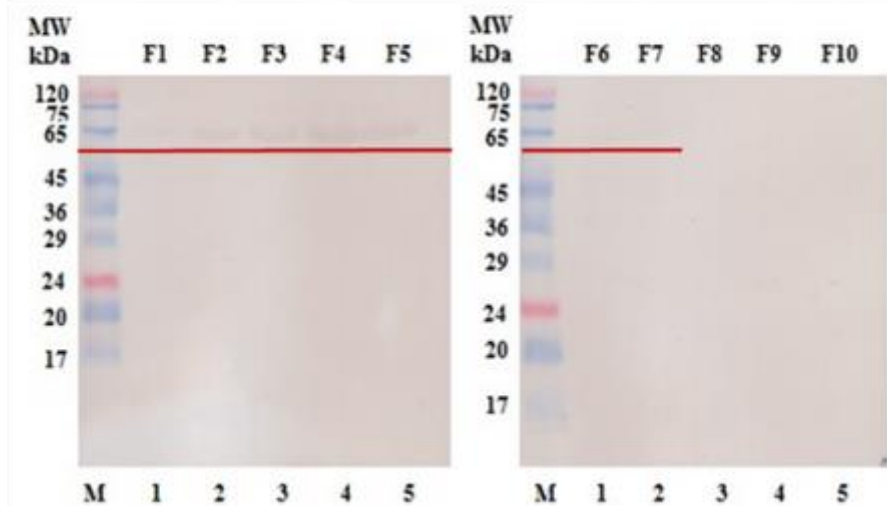


Fig 3. SDS-polyacrylamide gel analysis of viral particle in sucrose gradient containing PEG buffer. The viral particle were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Coomassie brilliant blue R-250 staining.

Tilapia serum



Rabbit serum

General overview of diagnostic methods in virology

Direct methods

- Electron microscopy
- Light microscopy
- Immunofluorescence
- Molecular techniques

Indirect methods

- Cell culture
- Embryonated egg
- Laboratory animals

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Thank you

