

In tropical and subtropical regions, especially in Africa and Southeast Asia, *T. viturolum* roundworms infect suckling bovine calves (6). *T. viturolum* roundworms have been identified in Florida, USA, in 2010 (7) and Canada in 2012 (8). Although *T. viturolum* roundworms cause diarrhea and weight loss in calves ≤ 3 months of age, infection with these roundworms is largely asymptomatic in adults.

Further investigation indicated that the source of infection was a pair of young-adult, free-range pigs living alongside the affected cattle. The cattle had been fed a round bale of hay to which the pigs had access. Parasitologic examination of the hay bale showed contamination with *A. suum* nematode eggs, indicating that the hay bale was probably exposed to pig feces. The hay bale was removed from the remaining cattle, and clinical signs gradually resolved without additional loss.

To unambiguously identify the nematodes, genomic DNA was extracted from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue of infected lung. On the basis of the mitochondrial DNA sequence of *A. suum*, primers were designed to amplify a partial sequence encoding NADH dehydrogenase subunit 5: VMDL-F2 (5'-TGCTAAAGGTTGGGTTATGGA-3') and M3-R (5'-CCTACTGCGTAGAGCCAGA-3'). PCR was performed by using the GoTaq Hot Start Green Master Mix (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) under the following conditions: 95°C for 4 min; 45 cycles of 94°C for 45 sec, 52°C for 45 sec, and 72°C for 1 min; and final extension at 72°C for 5 min.

The resulting amplicon was purified by using spin chromatography (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA, USA) and sequenced with amplification primers at the University of Missouri DNA Core Facility. The resulting 354-bp sequence (GenBank accession no. KT808321) was compared with sequences in GenBank by using blastn (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi?PAGE_TYPE=BlastSearch) and found to be 100% identical with that of *A. suum* nematode, thus confirming the identity. The sequence was only 98.3% identical with that of *A. lumbricoides* nematode, the species that had the next closest match (6 polymorphisms).

Increasing interest in and demand for organic meat results in proliferation of small, suburban farms that raise free-range animals. Reports have warned the community about major increases in zoonotic parasitic infections in organically raised pigs compared with animals raised under modern husbandry practices (9,10). The recent zoonotic case in Maine also involved a farm that grew and sold organic vegetables and organic livestock, including pigs (4). Until new proven preventive protocols are established, health personnel and veterinarians should be well informed about the risk for aberrant parasitic infections in pigs and possible transmission to humans and other domestic animals.

References

1. Roepstorff A, Mejer H, Nejsum P, Thamsborg SM. Helminth parasites in pigs: new challenges in pig production and current research highlights. *Vet Parasitol.* 2011;180:72–81. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2011.05.029>
2. Hoenigl M, Valentin T, Zollner-Schwetz I, Salzer HJ, Raggam RB, Strenger V, et al. Pulmonary ascariasis: two cases in Austria and review of the literature. *Wien Klin Wochenschr.* 2010;122 (Suppl 3):94–6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00508-010-1445-7>
3. Izumikawa K, Kohno Y, Izumikawa K, Hara K, Hayashi H, Maruyama H, et al. Eosinophilic pneumonia due to visceral larva migrans possibly caused by *Ascaris suum*: a case report and review of recent literatures. *Jpn J Infect Dis.* 2011;64:428–32.
4. Miller LA, Colby K, Manning SE, Hoenig D, McEvoy E, Montgomery S, et al. Ascariasis in humans and pigs on small-scale farms, Maine, USA, 2010–2013. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2015;21:332–4. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2102.140048>
5. McCraw BM, Lautenslager JP. Pneumonia in calves associated with migrating *Ascaris suum* larvae. *Can Vet J.* 1971;12:87–90.
6. Pandey VS, Hill FW, Hensman DG, Baragwanath LC. *Toxocara viturolum* in beef calves kept on effluent-irrigated pastures in Zimbabwe. *Vet Parasitol.* 1990;35:349–55. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0304-4017\(90\)90139-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0304-4017(90)90139-3)
7. Davila G, Irsik M, Greiner EC. *Toxocara viturolum* in beef calves in North Central Florida. *Vet Parasitol.* 2010;168:261–3. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2009.11.026>
8. Woodbury MR, Copeland S, Wagner B, Fernando C, Hill JE, Clemence C. *Toxocara viturolum* in a bison (*Bison bison*) herd from western Canada. *Can Vet J.* 2012;53:791–4.
9. Dubey JP, Hill DE, Rozeboom DW, Rajendran C, Choudhary S, Ferreira LR, et al. High prevalence and genotypes of *Toxoplasma gondii* isolated from organic pigs in northern USA. *Vet Parasitol.* 2012;188:14–8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2012.03.008>
10. Eijck IA, Borgsteede FH. A survey of gastrointestinal pig parasites on free-range, organic and conventional pig farms in The Netherlands. *Vet Res Commun.* 2005;29:407–14. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11259-005-1201-z>

Address for correspondence: Dae Young Kim, Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, 1600 E. Rollins St, Columbia, MO 65211, USA; email: kimdy@missouri.edu

Vectorborne Infections, Mali

David Safronetz,¹ Moussa Sacko, Nafomon Sogoba, Kyle Rosenke, Cynthia Martellaro, Sékou Traoré, Issa Cissé, Ousmane Maiga, Matt Boisen, Diana Nelson, Darin Oottamasathien, Molly Millett, Robert F. Garry, Luis M. Branco, Seydou Doumbia, Heinz Feldmann, Mamadou S. Traoré

Author affiliations: National Institutes of Health, Hamilton, Montana, USA (D. Safronetz, K. Rosenke, C. Martellaro, H. Feldmann); Institut National de Recherche en Sante

¹Current affiliation: Zoonotic Diseases and Special Pathogens, National Microbiology Laboratory, Public Health Agency of Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Publique, Bamako, Mali (M. Sacko, S. Traoré, I. Cissé, M.S. Traoré); University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako, Bamako (N. Sogoba, O. Maiga, S. Doumbia); Corgenix Medical Corporation, Inc., Broomfield, Colorado, USA (M. Boisen, D. Nelson, D. Oottamasathien, M. Millett); Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA (R.F. Garry); Zalgen Labs, LLC, Germantown, Maryland, USA (L.M. Branco)

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2202.150688>

To the Editor: As in many West Africa nations, vectorborne diseases represent a substantial health burden in Mali; however, beyond malaria, the incidence and etiology of many of these diseases is poorly understood. Of the estimated 14.1 million persons living in sub-Saharan Mali, $\approx 70\%$ live in remote rural settings with an ecological landscape that puts inhabitants at an increased risk for contact with rodent and arthropodborne diseases. We retrospectively analyzed serum samples for evidence of recent (IgM+) and previous (IgG+) infection with chikungunya (CHIKV), dengue (DENV), West Nile (WNV), Lassa (LASV), Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHFV), and Ebola (EBOV) virus, as well as Old World hantaviruses (OW-HANV) and *Leptospira* spp., which is regularly misdiagnosed as an acute viral infection.

We tested 376 deidentified serum samples collected from acutely ill patients who had a history of fever and hemorrhagic, diarrheal, or icteric syndromes (online Technical Appendix Figure, <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/>

article/22/2/15-0688-Techapp1.pdf). Research on samples from humans was conducted in accordance with the policies and regulations of the National Institutes of Health and adhered to the principles of the Belmont Report (1979) (<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html>). This research was conducted under an institutional review board–approved document.

Samples had previously tested negative for acute *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria and yellow fever virus infections. Commercially available IgM capture and conventional IgG ELISAs were used for serologic testing for CHIKV (GenWay Biotech, San Diego, CA, USA); DENV (all four serotypes) and WNV (both from Focus Diagnostics, Cypress, CA, USA); OW-HANVs (Euroimmun, Lubeck, Germany); and *Leptospira* spp. (Abnova, Taipei City, Taiwan). Conventional IgM/IgG ELISAs were used for LASV (Corgenix, Broomfield, CO, USA) and CCHFV (Vector-Best, Novosibirsk, Russia), and reagents for the EBOV IgM/IgG ELISA (infected/uninfected cell lysates) were prepared at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories (Hamilton, MT, USA) and validated with serum from experimentally infected monkeys. With the exception of the CHIKV, *Leptospira* spp., and in-house EBOV assays, the tests conducted in this study are under preclinical development for human diagnostic assays.

Samples were tested at a 1:100 dilution according to manufacturer specifications (CHIKV, CCHFV, WNV, DENV, OW-HANVs, LASV, and *Leptospira* spp.) or in-house quality-control assessments (EBOV), in a

Table. IgM and IgG seroprevalence rates of selected vectorborne pathogens in samples submitted from suspected yellow fever cases in Mali, 2009–2013*

Pathogen	IgM/IgG positivity	No. (%) samples					Total, N = 376
		2009, n = 77	2010, n = 107	2011, n = 71	2012, n = 34	2013, n = 87	
Chikungunya virus	IgM+	4 (5.2)	4 (3.7)	5 (7.0)	2 (5.9)	5 (5.7)	20 (5.3)
	IgG+	5 (6.5)	9 (8.4)	2 (2.8)	2 (5.9)	7 (8.0)	25 (6.6)
	IgG+/IgM+	0	1	0	0	0	1
West Nile virus	IgM+	0	0	0	0	1 (1.1)	1 (0.27)
	IgG+	33 (42.9)	46 (43.0)	28 (39.4)	13 (38.2)	27 (31.0)	147 (39.1)
	IgG+/IgM+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dengue virus	IgM+	6 (7.8)	11 (10.3)	4 (5.6)	4 (11.8)	4 (4.6)	29 (7.7)
	IgG+	32 (41.6)	46 (43.0)	31 (43.7)	13 (38.2)	28 (32.2)	150 (40.0)
	IgG+/IgM+	3	6	1	1	2	13
<i>Leptospira</i> spp.	IgM+	7 (9.1)	23 (21.5)	1 (1.4)	3 (8.8)	20 (23.0)	54 (14.4)
	IgG+	12 (15.6)	19 (17.8)	15 (21.1)	8 (23.5)	20 (23.0)	74 (19.7)
	IgG/IgM+	1	2	1	0	3	7
OW-HANV	IgM+	5 (6.5)	6 (6.5)	5 (7.0)	2 (6.7)	7 (8.0)	27 (7.2)
	IgG+	2 (2.6)	8 (7.5)	6 (8.5)	2 (6.7)	3 (3.4)	21 (5.6)
	IgG+/IgM+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lassa virus	IgM+	0	0	0	0	1 (1.1)	1 (0.27)
	IgG+	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IgG+/IgM+	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCHFV	IgM+	5 (6.5)	5 (4.7)	2 (2.8)	0	6 (6.9)	18 (4.8)
	IgG+	2 (2.6)	3 (2.8)	2 (2.8)	1 (2.9)	3 (3.4)	11 (2.9)
	IgG+/IgM+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ebola virus	IgM+	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IgG+	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IgG+/IgM+	0	0	0	0	0	0

*OW-HANV, Old World hantavirus; CCHFV, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus.

blinded fashion. Serologic reactivity was assessed according to manufacturer recommendations. For the EBOV ELISA, samples were deemed positive if optical density at 405 nm was >3 SD above that of the average of known negative samples.

Serologic evidence suggestive of acute infection (IgM+) with 1 of the pathogens tested for was observed for 39.9% of samples (Table). At 14.4%, *Leptospira* spp. was the most prevalent probable etiologic agent of acute disease identified. Of mosquito-borne viruses tested, DENV had the highest prevalence at 7.7%, followed by CHIKV (5.3%) and WNV (0.27%). Of rodent-borne pathogens, OW-HANVs had a seroprevalence of 7.2%, whereas LASV was considerably lower (0.27%). CCHFV IgM was documented in 4.8% of samples. Overall, little annual variation in the IgM seroprevalence was noted, except for *Leptospira* spp., for which 2 obvious peaks in seroprevalence were observed (Table).

Most IgM+ samples demonstrated serologic reactivity in only 1 assay. The exception was 2 samples that were IgM+ for hantaviruses and *Leptospira* spp., an acute dual infection that might be underrecognized (1). With the exception of DENV, few samples were both IgM+ and IgG+, suggesting the results were not attributable to IgM persistence. The DENV IgM+/IgG+ results might represent IgM persistence. However, because the ELISA detected all 4 serotypes, it is plausible that some results represent recent infection with DENV in the presence of IgG reactive with a different serotype.

The relatively high IgG seroprevalence for most of the pathogens tested supports the findings of the IgM assays and further suggest the circulation of and potential for human exposure to these agents in Mali (Table). Geographically, serologic evidence of infections with *Leptospira* spp., DENV, WNV, OW-HANVs, and CHIKV was observed throughout Mali (online Technical Appendix). No samples were reactive with EBOV, and the low incidence of LASV infection is not surprising because the samples analyzed here were collected outside of the 1 documented LASV-endemic region in Mali (2).

We used commercially available diagnostic platforms, primarily IgM capture and conventional IgG ELISAs, many of which are validated for human diagnostics. Ideally, diagnostics for zoonotic diseases would not rely on IgM/IgG serologic analysis because of caveats including IgM persistence and cross-reactivity between closely related pathogens (3,4). In the industrialized world, as well as in several countries throughout Africa, molecular approaches are often used to genetically identify pathogens, or follow-up convalescent-phase serum samples are collected to determine seroconversion or increased antibody titers or to conduct plaque reduction neutralization assays. Unfortunately, because of the nature of the

samples available, including time of collection, storage history, and remaining volume, many of these tests were not feasible for our study.

Despite these limitations, these serologic findings indicate that flaviviruses, bunyaviruses, and togaviruses, as well as *Leptospira* spp., are contributing to human illness in Mali. These results add to those recently documented in studies conducted in Sierra Leone, implying that several of these zoonotic pathogens are widely distributed yet underreported throughout West Africa (5,6).

Acknowledgments

We thank Joseph Shott, Richard Sakai, and Salif Camara for logistical support, and Randal Schoepp for helpful comments and suggestions.

Tragically, a coauthor, Darin Oottamasathien, who assisted in the development of the LASV diagnostics, lost her life all too soon. We wish to honor her memory.

This work was funded by the International Centers for Excellence in Research program, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health.

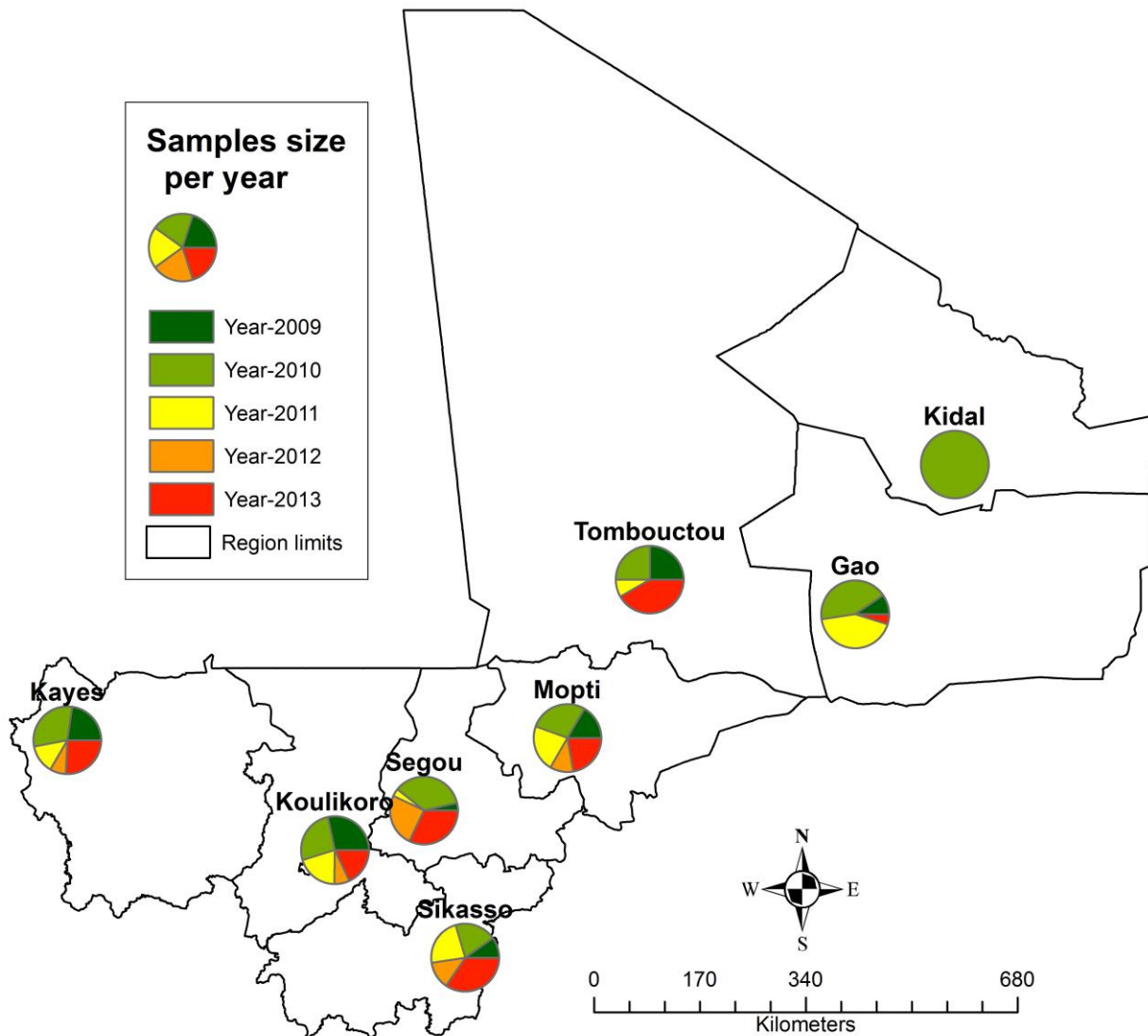
References

1. Sunil-Chandra NP, Clement J, Maes P, De Silva HJ, Van Esbroeck M, Van Ranst M. Concomitant leptospirosis-hantavirus co-infection in acute patients hospitalized in Sri Lanka: implications for a potentially worldwide underestimated problem. *Epidemiol Infect.* 2015;143:2081–93. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0950268814003707>
2. Safronetz D, Sogoba N, Lopez JE, Maiga O, Dahlstrom E, Zivcec M, et al. Geographic distribution and genetic characterization of Lassa virus in sub-Saharan Mali. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis.* 2013;7:e2582. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0002582>
3. Murray KO, Garcia MN, Yan C, Gorchakov R. Persistence of detectable immunoglobulin M antibodies up to 8 years after infection with West Nile virus. *Am J Trop Med Hyg.* 2013;89:996–1000. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.13-0232>
4. Prince HE, Matud JL. Estimation of dengue virus IgM persistence using regression analysis. *Clin Vaccine Immunol.* 2011;18:2183–5. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1128/CVI.05425-11>
5. Schoepp RJ, Rossi CA, Khan SH, Goba A, Fair JN. Undiagnosed acute viral febrile illnesses, Sierra Leone. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2014;20:1176–82. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2007.131265>
6. Boisen ML, Schieffelin JS, Goba A, Oottamasathien D, Jones AB, Shaffer JG, et al.; Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Consortium. Multiple circulating infections can mimic the early stages of viral hemorrhagic fevers and possible human exposure to filoviruses in Sierra Leone prior to the 2014 outbreak. *Viral Immunol.* 2015;28:19–31. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1089/vim.2014.0108>

Address for correspondence: Heinz Feldmann, Rocky Mountain Laboratories, National Institutes of Health, 903 S 4th St, Hamilton, MT 59840, USA; email: feldmannh@niaid.nih.gov

Vectorborne Infections, Mali

Technical Appendix



Technical Appendix Figure. Distribution of samples tested (N = 376), by region and year, Mali. Samples from Kayes (n = 66), Koulikoro (n = 166), Sikasso (n = 61), Segou (n = 28), Mopti (n = 18), Timbuktu (n = 12), Gao (n = 21), and Kidal (n = 4) were tested for serologic evidence of infection with 8 zoonotic pathogens.

Technical Appendix Table. IgM and IgG seroprevalence rates of selected vectorborne pathogens, by region of sample collection, Mali*

Pathogen	Assay	No. (%) sample							
		Kayes, n = 66	Koulikoro, n = 166	Sikasso, n = 61	Segou, n = 28	Mopti, n = 18	Timbuktu, n = 12	Gao, n = 21	Kidal, n = 4
Chikungunya virus	IgM	4 (6.1)	9 (6.0)	2 (3.3)	2 (7.1)	1 (5.6)	1 (8.3)	1 (4.8)	0
	IgG	10 (15.2)	11 (6.6)	2 (3.3)	2 (7.1)	0	0	0	0
West Nile virus	IgM	0	0	0	0	1 (5.6)	0	0	0
	IgG	40 (60.6)	51 (30.7)	8 (13.1)	12 (43)	11 (61.1)	8 (66.7)	17 (81)	0
Dengue virus	IgM	7 (10.1)	11 (6.6)	6 (9.8)	1 (3.6)	1 (5.6)	1 (8.3)	1 (4.8)	1 (25)
	IgG	41 (62.1)	56 (33.7)	10 (16.4)	12 (42.9)	10 (55.6)	3 (25)	16 (72.7)	2 (50)
<i>Leptospira</i> spp.	IgM	10 (15.2)	23 (13.9)	9 (14.8)	7 (25.0)	1 (5.6)	3 (25.0)	1 (4.8)	0
	IgG	12 (18.2)	40 (24.1)	7 (11.5)	6 (21.4)	3 (16.7)	2 (16.7)	4 (19)	0
OW-HANV	IgM	5 (7.6)	12 (7.2)	5 (8.2)	1 (3.6)	0	1 (8.3)	3 (14.3)	0
	IgG	1 (<0.01)	11 (6.6)	4 (6.6)	4 (14.3)	0	0	0	1 (25)
Lassa virus	IgM	0	0	0	0	0	1 (8.3)	0	0
	IgG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCHFV	IgM	4 (6.1)	9 (5.4)	1 (1.6)	3 (10.7)	0	1 (8.3)	0	0
	IgG	5 (7.6)	1 (0.6)	1 (1.6)	1 (3.6)	0	3 (25)	0	0
Ebola virus	IgM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	IgG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*OW-HANV, Old World hantavirus; CCHFV, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus.