NATURAL CRYPTOPODIOSIS IN A PIGLET SUFFERING FROM PSEUDOMEMBRANOUS TYPHILITIS

Cryptosporidiosis is a zoonosis occurring all over the world. Pigs also are receptive to crypto-
sporida as demonstrated by trials with crypto-
sporidial strains from men and calves (Moon
of pigs seem to occur seldom since only a few cases were reported in the USA, FRG and
Australia (Kennedy G. A. et al., 1977; JAVMA 170: 34–850; Schmidt U., Niens-

Among a total of 1755 complexly examined
suffering piglets, Bergeland and Henry
(Bergeland M. E., Henry S. C., 1982; Vet.
detected five animals with cryptosporidia, and
Sanford (Sanford S. E., 1963: Calif. Vet. J., 26:–29) in a similar study on 1453 piglets seven
animals infected by cryptosporidia. Links
(Links I. J., 1982; Austral. Vet. J., 58: 60–62) reported four cases of cryptosporidiosis in
piglets aged two to nine weeks. Schmidt
and Nienhoff (Schmidt U., Nienhoff H., 1982; Dtsch. tierärztl. Wschr. 89: 437–439)
described cryptosporidiosis in one baby pig aged
three weeks and two piglets aged two weeks.
Kennedy et al. (Kennedy G. A. et al., 1977: JAVMA 170: 34–850) detected cryptosporidiosis
in three piglets weighing 11 kg each.

In moderate climate natural cryptosporidiosis
has appeared to be a rare infection. Our own
data are based on several thousands faces ex-
aminations in pigs of different age kept in a
number of large-scale pigeries under different
management, and, several dozens of piglets
recently killed and instantly examined.

So far we encountered but one case of pseudo-
membranous typhilitis consequent to natural
infection by cryptosporidia. The piglet was
aged 17 days and originated from a litter of
10 baby pigs who had endured severe scouring.
Long-term observation of the breed revealed Is-
ospora suis and enteric adenovirus while bacterio-
ology detected no enteropathogenic agent.
Microscopically, epithelium of small and large
intestine was thickened, edematous and haemorr-
hagic. On casual epithelium, irregularly dispersed
foci were registered who displayed superficial
necrosis covered by a pseudomembrane contain-
ing a dense network of fibrin with numerous
erythrocytes, desquamated epithelial cells, bacte-
ria and trichomonads. The epithelium both below
and apart from pseudomembrane was haemorr-
hagic, and its lamina propria manifested
activation of macrophages and enhanced cellula-
tion from lymphocytes. Grouped cryptosporidia
in few extended crypts were situated in the upper
portions of epithelium which was void of pseudo-
membranes. Excretion of oocysts, if any, must
have been insignificant, since none was detected.

A considerably higher incidence of natural
cryptosporidiosis may be assumed in different
dietary conditions as signaled by our explora-
tion in Viet-Nam. Examining faeces from pigs
one-two months old, owned by a number of
small keepers, we identified large numbers of
cryptosporidia in about 20 % of samples
was concentrated primarily on suckling piglets.
The considerable prevalence of cryptosporidia
in pigs of 1–2 months in Viet-Nam, and, in-
formation on the age of piglets suffering from
natural infection indicate that cryptosporidia
in porcines may occur more frequently than
pressumed up to the present time.

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