SEPTICEMIA DUE TO SALMONELLA ARIZONAE INFECTION IN CAPTIVE SMOOTH SNAKE (CORONELLA AUSTRICA) – A CASE REPORT


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SUMMARY

Actually more than 2500 serovars of Salmonella are known, a small number is associated with reptiles from the suborder Ophidia. Apparently, bacteria from the genus Salmonella are component of the normal intestinal microbial community, and in case of immunosupression they become pathogens for the carrier hosts. In the reptile medicine due to the Salmonella infection there are described the following entities: septicemias, subcutaneous abscess, gastritis, gastroenteritis. The etiological agent of these morbid entities belongs to the serovars S. tiphymurium, S. regent, S. marina, S. arizonae.

A case of septicemia was described at one male of smooth snake (Coronella austriaca Laurenti, 1768) which, during the first examination showed multiple subcutaneous absceses. The abscesses were surgically cleaned and samples were collected for further microbiological examination. Using API 20E Salmonella arizonae was identified as casual agent of infection. Based on antibiogram we started a treatment using Enrofloxacin generally (10mg/kgc i.m.).

In spite of treatment and improvement of environmental conditions, the initial localized infection transformed to a fatal septicemic process. The gross pathology examination revealed numerous abscesses in the liver and in the lung, and generalized congestion. From the organs and from the blood the same microbial agent was isolated as in the case of abscesses, indicating the septicemic character of infection.

To our knowledge this is the first case of septicemic salmonellosis in captive smooth snake (Coronella austriaca).