TRANSMISSIBLE ENTERITIS IN YOUNG GUINEA FOWL

J. TOURNUT, O. SARRAU et P. REDON
avec la collaboration technique de Mme G. CHEVAU, Mlle M. P. COQUAND et J. LINZEAU

Laboratoire de Recherches de la Chaire de Pathologie médicale du Bétail et des animaux de basse-cour,
École nationale vétérinaire de Toulouse, I. N. R. A.,
Chemin des Capelles
31076 Toulouse

This disease occurring in intensive rearing conditions causes the death of young birds between the 5th and the 28th day of age. The highest mortality is between the 5th and the 15th day of age. It is characterized by enteritis and nephritis. On the crop of young animals it is possible to see, in some clinical observations typical candidosis lesions.

A study of this disease showed that the main source of infection in natural conditions was the drinking water.

Generally in young birds (chick, turkey, partdrige) the intestine was colonized from the 24th hour by entero-cocci colibacillæ and anaerobic sulphate reducers, from the third day by lactobacillæ and from the sixth day by bacteroids. On the third week the intestinal flora was balanced.

In sick animals there was a predominance of pathogen enterobacteries in the first week. In healthy or sick animals, numerous *Candida albicans* were observed on the crop, but candidosis lesion were only seen from the third or fourth week.

The failure of all treatments prompted us to utilize the enterococci as antagonists towards the enterobacteriacæ.

In field trials administration of enterococci 10^9 to ml in the drinking water (250 ml) to fasted birds in the morning and given for five consecutive days proved to be an excellent prophylactic method. This prophylaxis was completed by addition, four hours after, of Penicillin 100 U and Streptomycin 100/ml of drinking water.

If candidosis lesions are identified it is necessary to complete this prophylaxis by addition to the feed of 100 g of nystatine per 1 000 kg during the first fifteen days.

This study shows the important role of the constitution of the intestinal flora in the first days of life. If the outside environment is largely contaminated by bacteria with a high power of multiplication and a certain pathogenic character, the equilibrium of the intestinal flora cannot be established and taking into account the possible intestinal microbial antagonism, enterococci-enterobacteriacæ, an efficient prophylaxis has to be practised.