

3. Miscellaneous Articles

3.1 EBLV-2 infection confirmed in a Daubenton's bat in Germany

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From 1977 to 2006, a total number of 831 bat rabies cases were detected in Europe and reported to the WHO Collaborating Centre for Rabies Surveillance and Research at the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Germany. Interestingly, EBLV-2 was discovered only in 15 cases, mostly in Daubenton's bats (*Myotis daubentonii*) and pond bats (*Myotis dasycneme*), in only three countries, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK. So far, The Netherlands was the only country where both genotypes had been isolated from rabies-positive bats.

A bat was found grounded and unable to fly at a lake shore near the town of Bad Buchau (WGS84 coordinates: 09°37'13", N48°4'46), Biberach district, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, in a nature conservation area on August 18th 2007. It was taken to a local bat sanctuary for rehabilitation where it showed unusual behaviour starting on day 2 of the hospitalization. Initially lethargic and inconspicuous, the animal developed agitation and, while awake, was restless and climbing furiously in its cage. It was impossible to feed the animal. During this stage, the bat also showed aggressive behaviour such as biting. The animal was euthanized by a veterinarian and submitted to the regional veterinary lab where rabies was diagnosed.

On 21 August 2007 this bat was tested rabies positive at the regional veterinary

laboratory in Aulendorf in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg with a standard fluorescence antibody test (FAT). The animal was sent to the National Reference Laboratory for Rabies where rabies was confirmed by FAT and the tissue culture inoculation test (RTCIT). The morphological identification as a Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) was supported by genetic identification using partial sequencing of the cytochrome B-gene.

This report confirms the presence of EBLV-2 in Germany. Interestingly, the geographic origin of the EBLV-2 positive bat reported here close to the Swiss border may suggest an association of the German EBLV-2 case to the occurrence of EBLV-2 infections in bats from Switzerland. Based on the small number of tested animals EBLV-2 may have a much wider distribution in Germany and perhaps also in other regions of Europe than the limited number of EBLV-2 cases might suggest.

Two human cases after EBLV-2 infections have been recorded in Europe. Fortunately, the bat handler from the bat sanctuary had just completed the full pre-exposure vaccination few weeks before the incident as a precondition for her affiliation. This stresses the importance of adequate precautions when handling bats.