described in numerous odontocete species; most of them as necropsy findings. Nematodes of the genus Crassicauda and trematodes of the genus Nasitrema have been reported causing severe lesions in these sinuses. The diagnostic methods for its clinical evaluation are limited to egg findings in cytologies of the blowhole swabs or blood extentions, WBC counts and endoscopical examination. Moreover, a laborious anatomical dissection is necessary to access to the paraotic sinuses in dead animals. Eight dolphins belonging to three species (common, striped and bottlenose dolphins) were explored by means of computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance (MR), and posteriorly cross-sectioned for carrying out bidimensional anatomical studies. The paraotic sinuses were clearly identified in CT and MR scans, and the corresponding head sections. The examination of one adult common dolphin head showed some image patterns (isointense (MR-T1), hiperintense (MR-T2) and isodense (CT)) suggesting the presence of parasites into the pterigoid and other paraotic sinuses. Lesions of the pterigoid and maxillary bones were also observed by CT. Numerous rounded parasites were identified in the corresponding sections of this animal, and the samples collected allowed a definitive diagnosis of Crassicauda infestation. The CT and MR has resulted to be very useful for the exploration of the normal paraotic sinuses as well as the diagnosis of its parasitism, demonstrating the utility of these imaging techniques for the inspection and pathogical evaluation of these structures presenting a difficult access both in vivo and post-mortem.

MD8 FIRST CASE OF MORBILLIVIRUS (CEMV) INFECTION IN A STRANDED PILOT WHALE IN THE CANARY ISLANDS.

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A male juvenile short finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) was found alive on the beach (Tenerife), the animal died a few hours later and the carcase was transported to the Environmental Protection Department of the Island Government, where a complete necropsy was performed by the veterinary pathologists of the Veterinary School (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria). The animal showed a good body condition. During the necropsy, no relevant gross lesions were detected. Tissue samples of all the organs were collected, fixed in formalin, and processed for a routinehistological study. Samples from muscle, lung, liver, kidney, spleen and brain were collected and frozen at -80ºC for microbiological studies. Microscopically, the animal showed a focal purulent pneumonia and a severe liver congestion. The most

relevant finding was a non-suppurative encephalitis, with diffuse gliosis and neuronophagia. Perivascular cuffing of lymphocytes and plasma cells was present in the cerebral cortex, thalamic areas and medulla oblongata. From nervous tissues a Cetacean Morbillivirus (CeMV) was identified. Results of sequencing and further comparisons with other sequences described previously confirmed a novel sequence of CeMV, showing a close homology with the long finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) CeMV strain. The present work represents the first description of a CeMV in the Canary Islands.

MD9 PATHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN ORGANS FROM BALTIC GREY SEALS (*HALICHOERUS GRYPUS*) OBTAINED FROM TWO YEARS HUNTING

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The health of Baltic seals has been investigated by dissections of by-caught animals and those found dead since 1970s at the Swedish Museum of Natural History. High prevalence's of several pathological changes, including sterility among females, with relations to environmental contaminants in biota have been reported. Since then, concentrations of PCB and DDT in fish from the Baltic have decreased, resulting in a recovery in reproductive health after 1997 and an increase in numbers of Baltic grey seals. Some pathological changes still persist and the prevalence of intestinal ulcers has even increased. In the year of 2002 and 2003, internal organs from 137 grey seals (63% females) obtained from Swedish hunt were examined. Fifty per cent of the investigated grey seals were between 4 and 10 years of age. Pathological changes recorded were severe adrenocortical hyperplasia (8 animals), cholangitis (4), salmonellosis (1) and moderate to severe (exceeding 10 mm in diameter) colonic ulcers. These intestinal lesions were found in 42% of the examined seals in 2002 and in 59 % in 2003. The prevalence of colonic ulcers is similar in by-caught grey seals and there is a significant higher prevalence in the Gulf of Bothnia compared to the southern part of the Baltic Sea. Salmonellosis caused by *Salmonella dublin* has also been recorded in one grey seal found dead on the shore in 2004. These are the first two cases of salmonellosis in seals reported from the Baltic.