POSTER ABSTRACTS

Veterinary Pathology: Others

193 | ASSOCIATION OF AEROMONAS SPP. WITH MORTALITY AND PERIVISCERAL ADIPOSE TISSUE NECROSIS IN REDTAIL CATFISH (PHRACTOCEPHALUS HEMIOLIOPTERUS)

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Background
Aeromoniasis is a disease caused by different bacteria belonging to the genus *Aeromonas*, and it is known to have high mortality rates in fish. The objective of this study is to describe the lesions associated with these bacteria in a group of redtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*) from a private aquarium.

Materials & Methods
Necropsies were performed on seven redtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*) that suffered from acute deaths. Samples were collected for bacterial culture and histological examination of all organs.

Results
The fish presented with non-specific clinical signs of sudden onset on the day of death, including erratic swimming. External examination did not reveal typical *Aeromonas* lesions, such as skin haemorrhages, only some fish presented with distention of the coelomic cavity. Internally, a substantial amount of perivisceral fat was observed in the coelomic cavity with extensive multifocal flattened lesions, diffuse borders and yellowish-reddish colouring. Histologically, the adipose tissue showed extensively vascularised septa of connective tissue infiltrated by a dense mass of macrophages containing a fine to coarse brownish-yellow granular material. In addition, a severe cellular inflammatory reaction and multifocal necrotic areas were observed. Bacterial culture and PCR were positive for *Aeromonas veroni* and *Aeromonas hydrophila* in the adipose tissue samples.

Conclusion
This work describes for the first time the association between *Aeromonas* spp. and extensive multifocal perivisceral adipose necrosis in acute deaths of redtail catfish maintained under human care.