Avian Metapneumovirus Subtype A in China and Subtypes A and B in Nigeria.

A. A. Owoade\textsuperscript{1}, M. F. Ducatez\textsuperscript{1}, J. M. Hübschen, A. Sausy, H. Chen, Y. Guan, and C. P. Muller\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

\textsuperscript{b}Institute of Immunology, National Public Health Laboratory, 20A rue Auguste Lumière, L-1950 Luxembourg

\textsuperscript{c}Joint Influenza Research Centre (Shantou University Medical College and the University of Hong Kong), Shantou University Medical College, Shantou 515041, China

\textsuperscript{d}State Key Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

These authors contributed equally to this publication.

Corresponding author: 20A, rue Auguste Lumière, L-1950 Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. \texttt{Claude.Muller@LNS.ETAT.LU}

Abstract

In order to detect and characterize avian metapneumovirus, organs or swabs were collected from 697 chicken and 110 turkeys from commercial farms in Southwestern Nigeria and from 107 chickens from live bird markets in Southeastern China. In Nigeria, 15\% and 6\% of the chicken and turkey samples, respectively, and 39\% of the chicken samples from China, were positive for aMPV genome by PCR. The sequence of a 400 nt fragment of the attachment protein gene (G gene) revealed the presence of aMPV subtype A in both Nigeria and Southeastern China. Essentially identical subtype A viruses were found in both countries and were also previously reported from Brazil and the United Kingdom, suggesting a link between these countries or a common source of this subtype. In Nigeria, subtype B was also found, which may be a reflection of chicken importations from most major poultry-producing countries in Europe and Asia. In order to justify countermeasures, further studies...