

Temperature Coupling: Relationships with Ranavirus Pathogenicity



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Die-offs in Summer

GSMNP: Cades Cove

Ken Dodd (USGS), Jamie Barichivich (USGS), and Megan Todd-Thompson (UT)



May 1999, 2000, 2009, 2012, 2013: Spotted & Marbled Salamander, Wood Frog, Spring Peeper, Southeastern Chorus Frog

Green et al. (2002), Todd-Thompson (2010)

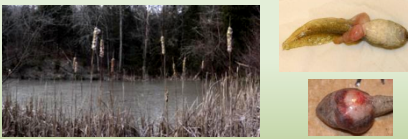
Virus Replication increases with Temperature
12 – 32 C (in vitro) Chinchar (2002)

Ranavirus Landscape Prevalence

Tennessee Ponds

Hoverman et al. (2011)

Green Frog, Bullfrog, Pickerel Frog, Eastern Newt, Tiger and Spotted Salamanders




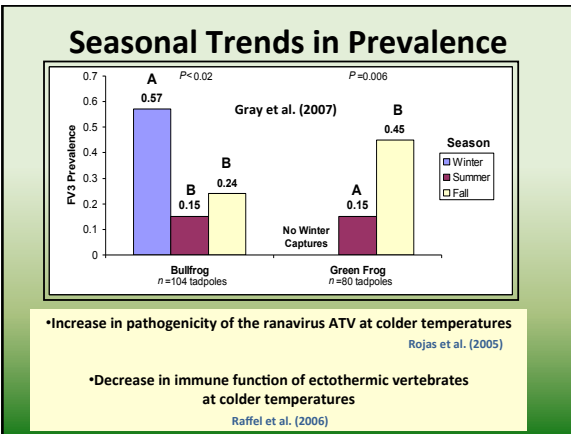
Ranavirus Distribution: 83% of Ponds Sampled

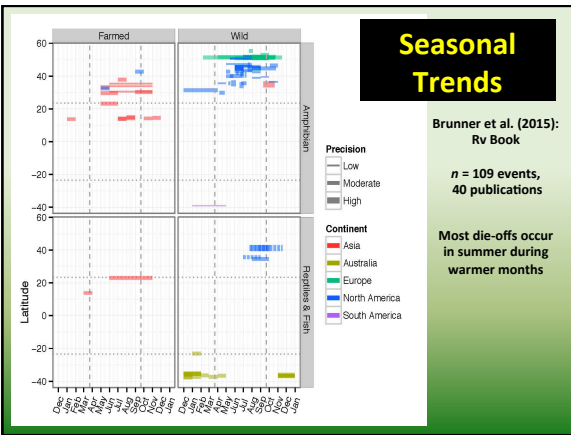
Greatest Prevalence and a Die-off in Autumn

Widespread Occurrence of Ranavirus in Pond-Breeding Amphibian Populations

Jason T. Hoverman,^{1,2} Matthew J. Gray,² Debra L. Miller,^{2,3,4} and Nathan A. Haillip^{2,3} **2011**









Does Temperature Play a Role in the Emergence of Ranaviruses?

- Seasonal Trends:**
 - Density dependent factors
 - Changes in natural (predator density, development) or anthropogenic stressors (nitrogen concentration)
- Water Temperature's Role:**
 - Viral Replication vs. Immune Function Chinchar (2002), Raffel et al. (2006)
 - Function as a Natural Stressor Long et al. (2012)
 - Fish: regulation of transcription, nucleosome assembly, chromatin organization and protein folding

Competing Hypotheses

- **Virus Replication Hypothesis**
 - Ranavirus replication increases with temperature up to 32 C **High Pathogenicity at Higher Temperatures**
 - Caveat: Immune function in ectotherms also increases with temperature
- **Temperature Induced Stress Hypothesis**
 - Early Spring Breeding Species:
 - Stressed by Warm Temp
 - Summer Breeding Species:
 - Stressed by Cold Temp

Pathogenicity is Species-specific and Related to Typical Water Temperature Experienced During Tadpole Development

Objective

Test for Differences in Pathogenicity of Ranavirus at Two Temperatures (10 and 25 C) among Four Amphibian Species

(two spring breeding and two summer breeding species)

Indices of Pathogenicity:

- Percent Mortality
- Infection Prevalence

Species Tested

- **Early spring breeders**
 - Spotted Salamander
 - Wood Frog **Larvae Metamorphose Prior to June**
- **Summer breeders**
 - Cope's Gray Tree Frog **Larvae Metamorphose Prior to Sept**
 - Green Frog **Larvae Overwinter & Metamorphose following Summer**



Experimental Design

- **Two environmental chambers**
 - Low temperature (10°C = 50°F)
 - High temperature (25°C = 77°F)
- **Two treatments in a RBD** ($n = 20/\text{trt}$)
 - Exposed: 10^3 PFU/mL of FV3-like isolate
 - Control: Virus culture media (MEM)
- **2-L containers**
- **3-d Exposure**
- **28 days**



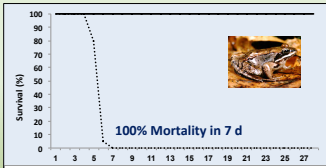
CONVIRON
Building Partnerships · Creating Solutions

Acclimated
1 wk

Wood Frog

Survival and Infection Prevalence

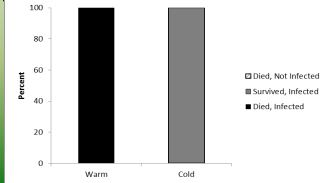
No Control Mortality



..... Warm
— Cold

Clinical

\bar{X} PFU
= 152484



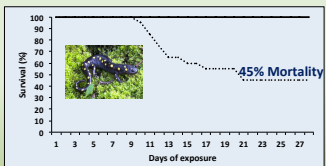
Subclinical

\bar{X} PFU = 84

Spotted Salamander

Survival and Infection Prevalence

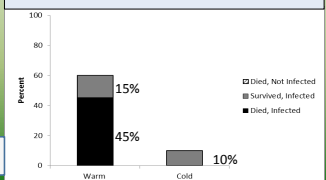
No Control Mortality



..... Warm
— Cold

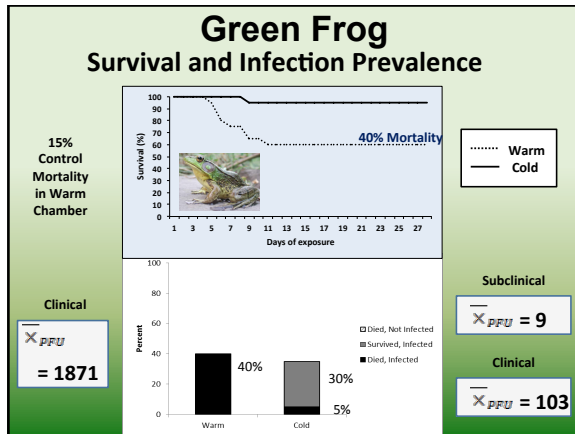
Clinical

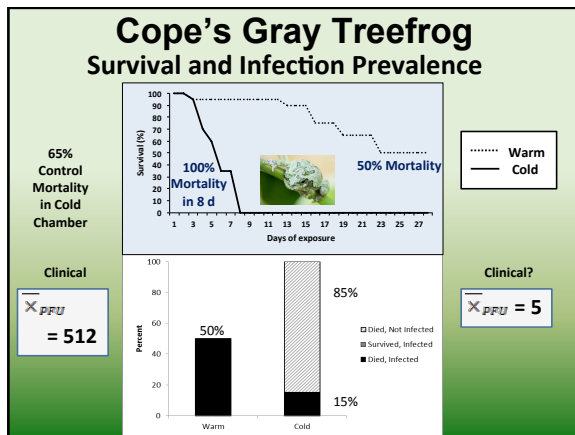
\bar{X} PFU
= 6837

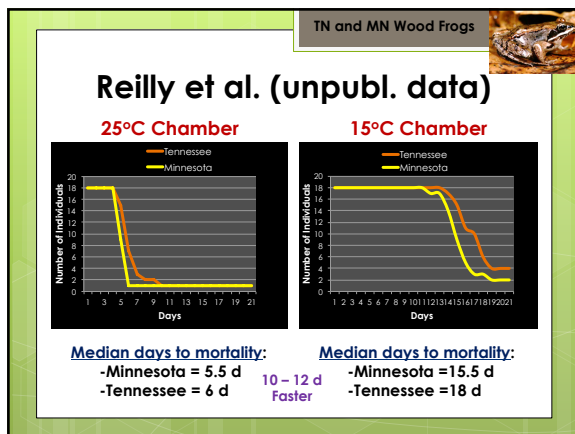


Subclinical

\bar{X} PFU = 10







Hypothesis Support

- **Virus Replication Hypothesis**
 - Mortality Greater in Warm:
 - Wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and green frogs
 - Infection Greater in Warm: X_{PFU} 775X greater in warm
 - All species (wood frog: 100% infection in both)
- **Morbidity-Infection Threshold (Wood Frogs)**
 - 10 C = 100% infection, no mortality
 - 15 C = 80 – 90% mortality (Reilly et al.)

In vitro
12 – 32°C
Chinchar (2002)

Temperature Dependency

Survival: Brand, Chaney, Reilly et al. (in review)

FV3 In Vitro Replication Stops at 12 C (Chinchar 2002)

FV3-like ranaviruses appears to become pathogenic at 12 C (54 F) but infection *in vivo* can occur at lower temperatures.

Temperature: Common frog tadpoles

Bayley et al (2013)

Susceptibility of the European common frog *Rana temporaria* to a panel of ranavirus isolates from fish and amphibian hosts

20 C

15 C



Questions??

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Future
of Veterinary Medicine
