








Ecology of Ranaviruses: A State of Understanding




Matthew J. Gray
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Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries




Outline

- I. Ranavirus-Host Characteristics
- II. Ecology: Species to Communities
- III. Effects of Stressors
- IV. Commercial Trade & Pathogen Pollution

Ranavirus Characteristics



- dsDNA, 150-280K bp
- 120-300 nm in diameter (3x smaller than bacteria)
- Icosahedral Shape (20)



Family: Iridoviridae

Genera: *Iridovirus*, *Chloriridovirus*, *Ranavirus*, *Megalocytivirus*, and *Lymphocystivirus*

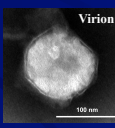
Invertebrates

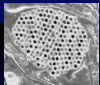
↓

Species (6)

- Ambystoma tigrinum virus (ATV)*
- Bohle iridovirus (BIV)
- Frog virus 3 (FV3)
- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus
- European catfish virus
- Santee-Cooper Ranavirus

Ectothermic Vertebrates





ICTV (2012)

How Does Ranavirus Infect A Host?

Routes of Transmission

Indirect Transmission



Water or Sediment

Skin, Gills, Intestines (epithelial cells)

Direct Contact



One Second Skin Contact

Ingestion

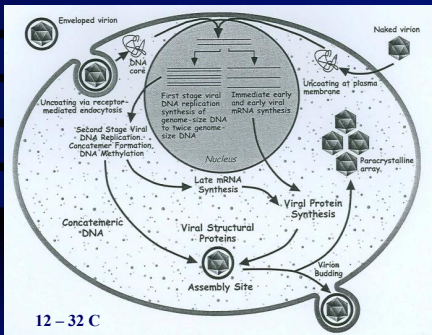


Incidental, Necrophagy, Cannibalism, Predation (Mortality 2X Faster)

Brunner et al. (2004), Harp & Petranka (2006), Brunner et al. (2007), Hoverman et al. (2010)

Ranavirus Replication Cycle

Chinchar (2002), Chinchar et al. (2006), Robert et al. (2011)



Viral Transcription within 3 hours of exposure

Cell death occurs within 6 – 9 hrs PI

12 – 32 C

Gross Signs of Infected Amphibians

Edema, Erythema, Hemorrhages, Ulcerations



N. Haislip, UT

D. Green, USGS


Signs Vary Among Species

Haislip, Miller, and Gray
(unpubl. data)

Lithobates clamitans



Hyla chrysoscelis







Lithobates sylvaticus



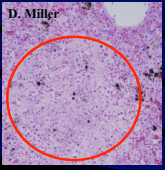


Organ Destruction

3 Primary Organs: Liver, Spleen, and Kidney

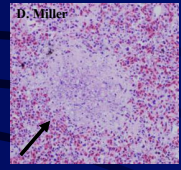
Ballinger et al. (1999)
Miller et al. (2007, 2008)

D. Miller



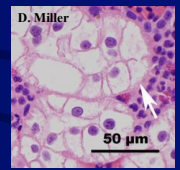
Liver Necrosis

D. Miller



Spleen Necrosis

D. Miller



Kidney Degeneration

Pathogenesis

Target Organ Failure
Heart Failure
Toxicosis, Anemia


Mortality Can Be Rapid!
Quickly as 3 days!

Hoverman et al. (2011a)


Maine 2013 Die-off

1000 carcasses/m²
≥200,000 dead
qPCR Confirmed





Wheelwright et al.
(in review)



6/14/13

<24 hrs




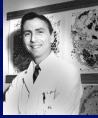



6/15/13

History of Ranavirus Die-offs



First Isolated:

- Dr. Allan Granoff
- St. Jude Hospital
- Lucke herpesvirus
- Rana pipiens* (1962)



First Large-scale Die-offs:

- Dr. Andrew Cunningham
- Institute of Zoology, ZSL
- Rana temporaria* (1992)

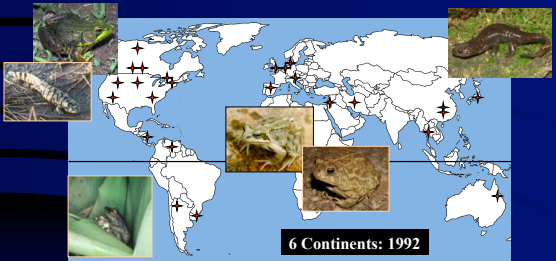



First North American Die-offs:

- Dr. Jim Collins and students
- Arizona State University
- Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi* (1985, 1997)

Global Distribution of Ranavirus Cases: Amphibians




6 Continents: 1992

All Latitudes, All Elevations

15 Families: Alytidae, Ranidae, Hylidae, Bufonidae, Leptodactylidae, Dendrobatidae, Discoglossidae, Pipidae, Myobatrachidae, Rhacophoridae, Scaphiropodidae, Ambystomatidae, Salamandridae, Hynobiidae, Cryptobranchidae

>70 Species

Reported Ranavirus Cases in North America: Amphibians



Families

- Bufonidae
- Hylidae
- Ranidae
- Scaphiropodidae
- Ambystomatidae
- Cryptobranchidae
- Plethodontidae
- Salamandridae

Uncommon

>30 States & 5 Provinces;

46 Species

Lithobates sylvaticus

viruses
ISSN 1999-4915

Ecopathology of Ranaviruses Infecting Amphibians
Debra Miller ^{1,2*}, Matthew Gray ¹ and Andrew Storfer ¹ **2011**

Case Example

Re-occurring Die-offs

Jamie Barichivich (USGS) and
Megan Todd-Thompson (UT)

GSMNP, Cades Cove
Gourley Pond

May 1999, 2000, 2009, 2012

Spotted & Marbled Salamander, Wood Frog,
Spring Peeper, Southeastern Chorus Frog

Green et al. (2002)

A. Cressler, USGS; M. Niemiller, UT; A. Cressler, USGS; B. Green, USGS

What Mechanisms Lead to Outbreaks?

Gray et al. (2009)

10² - 10³ PFU/mL

Ecology and pathology of amphibian ranaviruses

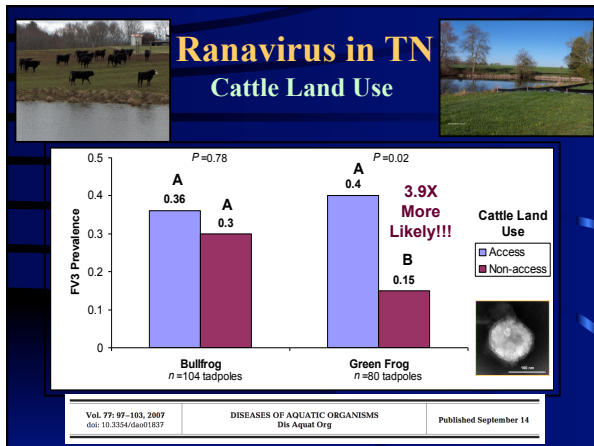
Matthew J. Gray^{1,*}, Debra L. Miller^{1,2}, Jason T. Hoverman¹

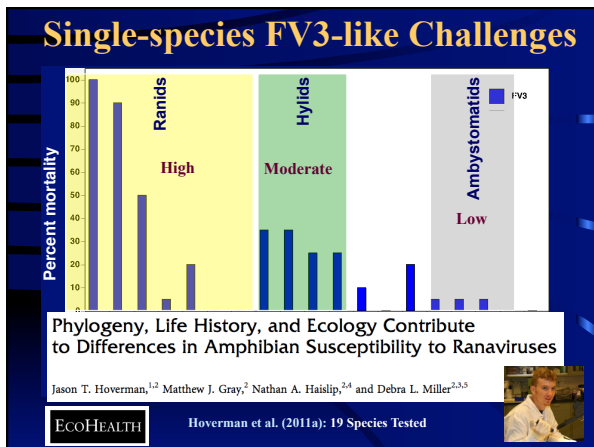
Vol. 87: 243-266, 2009
doi: 10.1016/j.diseas.2009.07.018
DISEASES OF AQUATIC ORGANISMS
Dis. Aquat. Org.
Published December 3

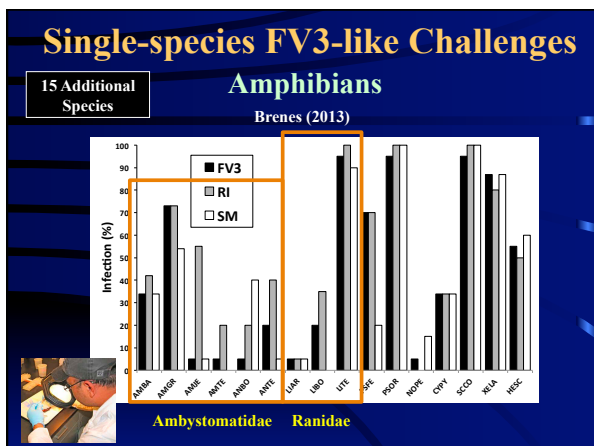
Species Challenges

FV3-like Ranaviruses

the FUTURE
of Veterinary Medicine







Life History and Phylogeny Amphibians

Hoverman et al. (2011); Brenes (2013)

No Phylogenetic Signal

$P = 0.354$

35 spp

All Three Isolates

- Fast development hatching time*
- Low aquatic index
- Breeding habitat (temporal)

Phylogeny, Life History, and Ecology Contribute to Differences in Amphibian Susceptibility to Ranaviruses

From T. Houston^{1†}, Matthew J. Gray¹, Nathan A. Haddley^{2†} and Debra L. Meyer^{2†}

EcoHEALTH

Cases of FV3-like Ranaviral Disease in Reptiles

ng (2011)

Single-species FV3-like Challenges Chelonians

Terrapene carolina, T. ornata, Euseya latisternum, Emydura krefftii, Trachemys scripta

Greatest infection and morbidity with IP injection or oral inoculation.

Water bath exposure sufficient for transmission with some species.

Ariel (1997), Johnson et al. (2007), Allender et al. (2013), Brenes et al. (2014)

Soft-shelled Turtle

Exposure	Individuals (%)
Control	0
Turtle	~10
Fish	~20
Amph	0

Mississippi Map Turtle

Exposure	Survived, infected (%)	Died infected (%)
Control	0	0
Turtle	~5	0
Fish	0	0
Amphibian	0	0

Brenes (2013)

Single-species FV3-like & ATV Challenges

Fishes


No Transmission:
Cyprinus carpio, *Carassius auratus*,
Lepomis cyanellus
Janevich et al. (2001), Bang Jensen et al. (2011a)

Low Transmission:
Amelurus melas, *Esox luciosus*,
Sander lucioperca,
Micropterus salmoides
Gobbo et al. (2010), Bang Jensen et al. (2009, 2011b), Picco et al. (2010)


High Mortality:
Scaphirhynchus albus
Waltzek et al. (in review; DAO)

Single-species FV3-like Challenges

Fishes



Channel catfish



Mosquito fish

Legend:
 □ Died not infected
 ■ Survived, infected
 ■ Died infected

Host	Died not infected (%)	Survived, infected (%)	Died infected (%)
Control	0	0	0
Turtle	0	0	~5
Fish	~5	0	0
Amph	0	0	0

Host	Died not infected (%)	Survived, infected (%)	Died infected (%)
Control	0	0	0
Turtle	0	0	~10
Fish	0	~5	~5
Amph	0	~5	~10

No Transmission: tilapia, bluegill and fathead minnow

Limitation: Density dependence (transmission/stressor)

Reservoirs or Amplification Hosts?

FV3-like Ranaviruses

Possible Reservoirs
 Infected, Susceptible, Recovered

Reptiles

↓

Low Mortality (Subclinical)

Reservoir

Bony Fish

↓

Low Mortality (Subclinical)

Reservoir

Amphibians

↓

Low – High Mortality (Subclinical & Clinical)

Reservoir or Amplification

Can Interclass Transmission Occur?

Host range, host specificity and hypothesized host shift events among viruses of lower vertebrates **Bandin & Dopazo (2011)**

VR VETERINARY RESEARCH

Evidence from the Wild

The Washington Post Make us your start page
POSTLOCAL

North Branch Stream Valley State Park

13 February 2012

Deadly virus hits turtles, tadpoles in Montgomery County

26 of 31 Box Turtles Die from Ranaviral Disease

2008 – 2011

Larval anurans and salamanders dead too

Farnsworth and Seigel (2013)

View Photo Gallery — Biologists say an alarming number of turtles rescued from the path of the Montgomery County's construction have died of a virus they fear could devastate Maryland's ecosystem.

Evidence of Interclass Transmission

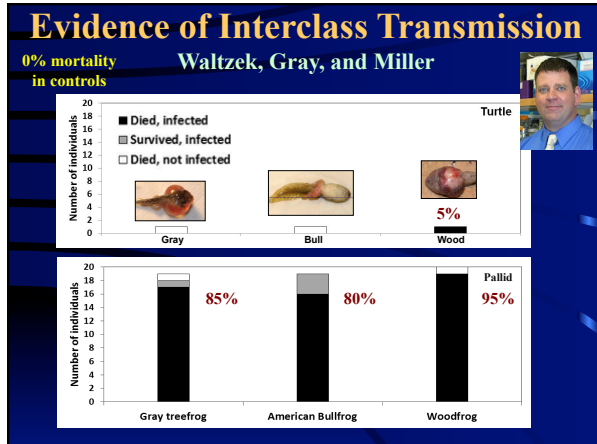
Bayley et al. (2013)

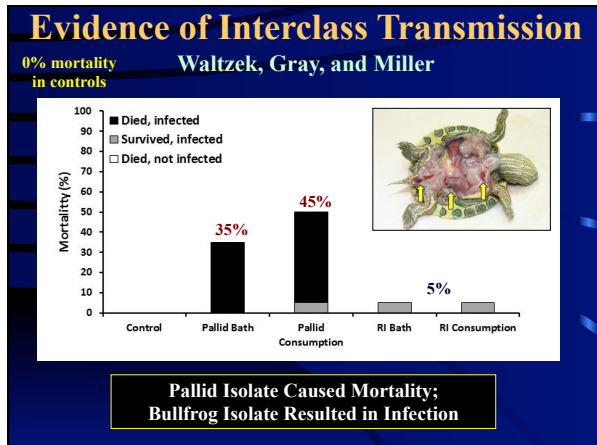
Susceptibility of the European common frog *Rana temporaria* to a panel of ranavirus isolates from fish and amphibian hosts

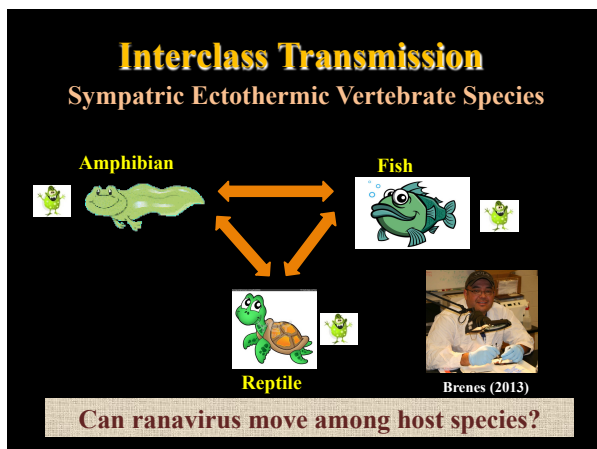
Vol. 103: 171–183, 2013 doi: 10.3354/dao02574	DISEASES OF AQUATIC ORGANISMS Dis Aquat Org	Published April 11
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Frog Virus 3 **Pike
Pike-perch
Black Bullhead**

Bang Jensen 2009, 2011;
Gobbo et al. 2010







Experiment

- Direct exposure
 - Exposed to 10^3 PFU/mL
 - 3 days
- 12-L containers divided in half by a 2000 μ m plastic mesh
- Different species in each side of the container

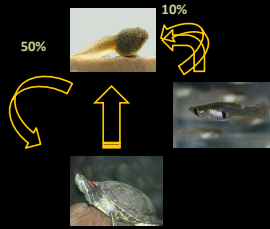


Turtle and Fish Results

Brenes et al. (PLoS ONE, accepted)



- All classes tested can transmit the virus
- Turtles infected tadpoles
 - 50% mortality
- Fish infected tadpoles
 - 10% mortality

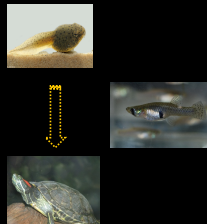


Amphibian Results

Brenes et al. (PLoS ONE, accepted)



- Amphibians transmitted to turtles but not fish
- No mortality of turtles or fish exposed to infected tadpoles
- Suggests that turtles and fish may be reservoirs of ranavirus
- Amphibians may be amplifying species



Superspreaders and Amplifying Species

Paull et al. (2012)

Persistence

↳

Superspreading Individuals


↳

Shedding Rate Contact

Dispersal

↳

Disease Hotspots



Host Community

↳

Amplification Species

↳

Susceptibility Contact Rate

Contact Rate

•Gahl and Calhoun (2010)
•Lychakiet al. (2010)
•Brunner et al. (2011)

•Green et al. (2002)
•Petranka et al. (2003)
•Harp and Petranka (2006)

REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

From superspreaders to disease hotspots: linking transmission across hosts and space




Sara H Paull¹, Sejin Song¹, Katherine M McClure^{1,2}, Loren C Sackett¹, A Marm Kilpatrick³, and Pieter T J Johnson¹

Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment
10:75-82
2012

Ranavirus Superspreaders

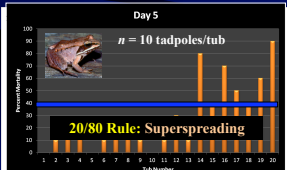
Reilly, Chaney, Gray, & Miller (unpubl. data)

6 hrs cohabitation

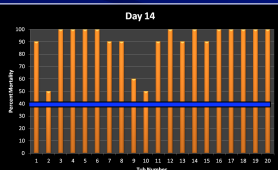
3-day 10⁸PFU/mL

Day 5



20/80 Rule: Superspreading

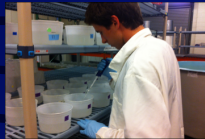

Day 14

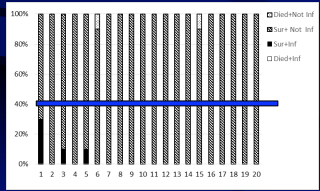


Ranavirus Superspreaders

Reilly, Chaney, Gray, & Miller (unpubl. data)

0% Died and Infected



Community Level Transmission

Brenes, Gray, & Miller (unpubl. data)



Inoculated in Lab
10³ PFU/mL FV3
Exposure Order



Appalachian: Wood frog, chorus frog, spotted salamander
Coastal Plains: Gopher frog, chorus, southern toad

Does Exposure Order or Composition Matter?

Exposure Order Matters

Brenes (2013)

Design

n = 5 pools/trt
10 larvae/spp
60 days



Exposure Treatments

Only Wood Frogs
Only Chorus Frogs
Only Spotted Salamanders
Control

Appalachian Community



Community Composition Matters

Brenes (2013)

Design

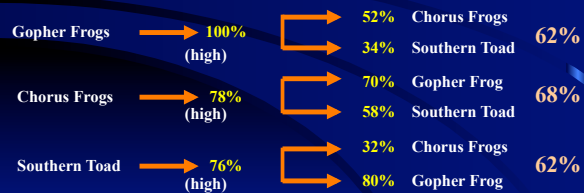
n = 5 pools/trt
10 larvae/spp
60 days



Exposure Treatments

Only Gopher Frogs
Only Chorus Frogs
Only Southern Toad
Control

Gulf Coastal Plain, USA



Evidence of Environmental Persistence

(1) EHNVPersistence (Langdon 1989)



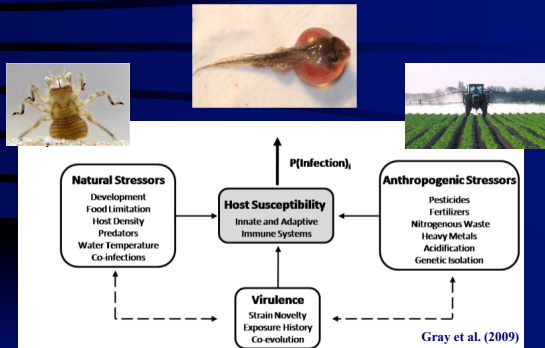
- Distilled Water: **97 d**
- Dry Infected Tissue: **113 d**
- Frozen Infected Tissue: **2 yr**

(2) FV3, FV3-like (Nazir et al. 2012)

- 20 C = •PW (unsterile): **22-34 d** •Soil: **13-22 d**
 4 C = •PW (unsterile): **58-72 d** •Soil: **30-48 d**

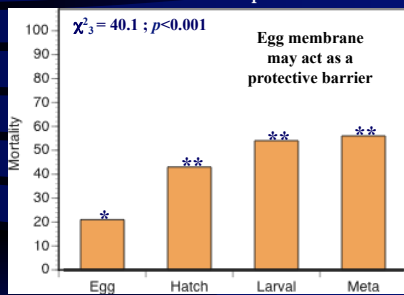
(T-90 Values)

Impacts of Stressors



Impacts of Development

Across Seven Species Haislip et al. (2011)



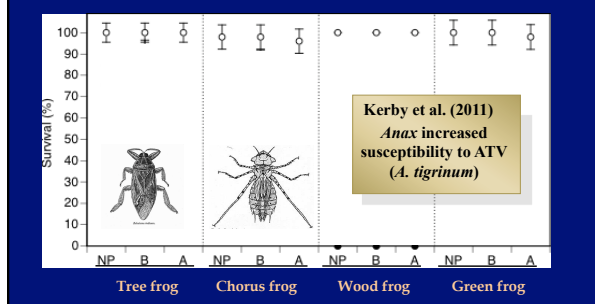
ML Estimate: Hatchling - 3X > Embryo
 Larval - 4X > Embryo
 Metamorph - 5X > Embryo



Natural stressors and disease risk: does the threat of predation increase amphibian susceptibility to ranavirus?

Can. J. Zool. 90: 893-902 (2012)

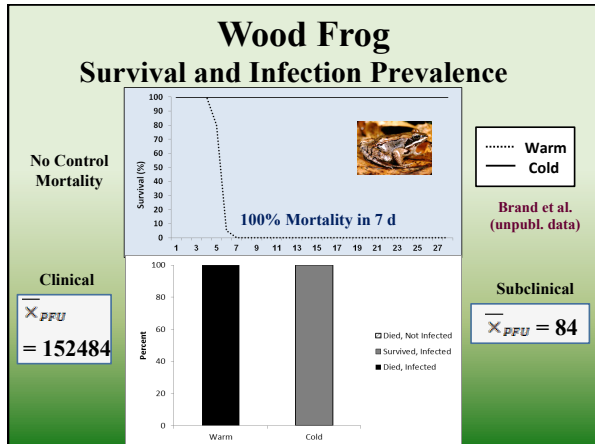
N.A. Haislip, J.T. Hoverman, D.L. Miller, and M.J. Gray

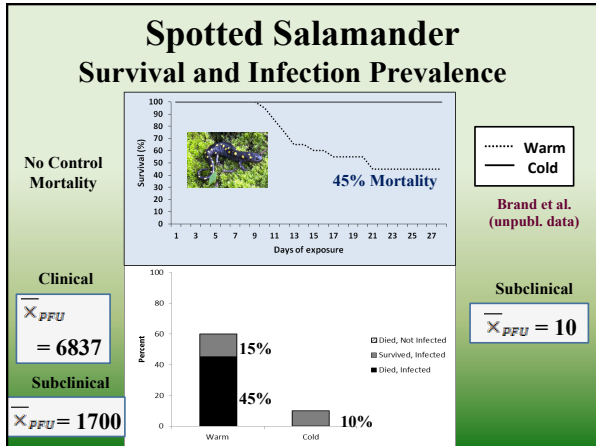


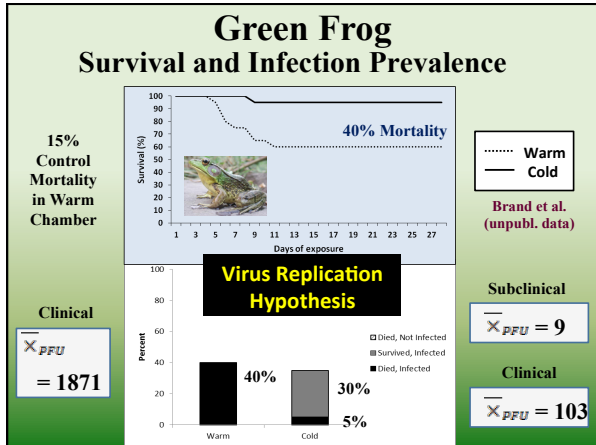
Competing Temperature Hypotheses

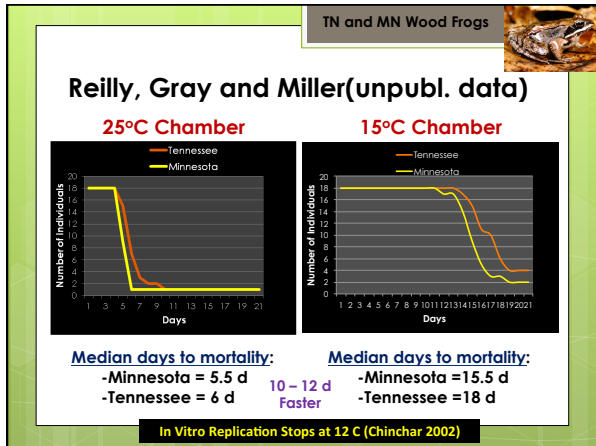
- **Virus Replication Hypothesis** Bayley et al. (2013)
 - Ranavirus replication increases with temperature up to 32 C
 - High Pathogenicity at Higher Temperatures
- **Temperature Induced Stress Hypothesis**
 - Early Spring Breeding Species:
 - Stressed by Warm Temp
 - Summer Breeding Species:
 - Stressed by Cold Temp

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









Factors Contributing to Emergence

Anthropogenic Stressors: Forsion & Storfer (2006); Gray et al. (2007); Greer et al. (2008); Kerby et al. (2011)

- 1) Herbicide (Atrazine) Insecticide (Carbaryl) } ATV Susceptibility ↑
- 2) Cattle Land Use: Prevalence → Green Frogs and Tiger Salamanders

Other Possible Stressors: Pesticide Mixtures, Nitrogenous Waste, Endocrine Disruptors, Acidification, Global Warming, Heavy Metals

Pathogen Pollution: (Cunningham et al. 2003)

Anthropogenic introduction of novel strains to naïve populations

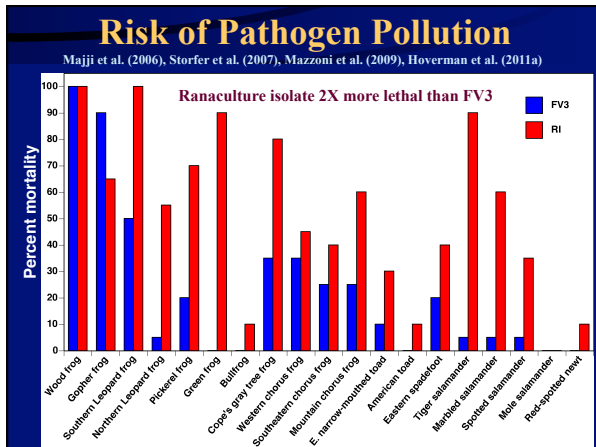


Picco et al. (2007)

- Fishing Bait
- Ranaculture Facilities
- Biological Supply Companies
- International Food & Pet Trade
- Contaminated Fomites



Schloegel et al. (2009)

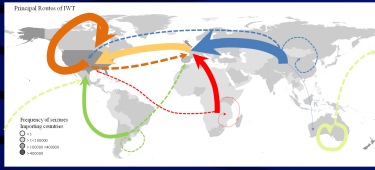


Commercial Trade and Emergence

Drs. Andrew Storfer and Angela Pico
Storfer et al. (2007), Picco & Collins (2008)

- 85% bait shops had ≥1 infected salamander
- 32% prevalence (n = 2228)
- Anglers: used (26-73%) and released (26 – 67%)
- Different ATV strains are being transported
- Phylogenetic Concordance Analysis
 - Lack of co-evolution: host-pathogen phylogenies
 - Complete concordance when adjusted for human trade
- Emergence: pathogen pollution

Global Trade of Ranavirus Hosts



Kristine Smith, DVM

From 2000-2006, the U.S. imported >1.5 billion individual animals (fish & wildlife; Smith et al. 2009)

- 90% fish, 2% amphibians, 1% reptiles
- 25 million live amphibians imported to U.S./year

Ranavirus Positive

- Hong Kong = 89%
- Dominican Republic = 70%
- Madagascar = 57%

Smith et al. (unpubl. data)



World Organization for Animal Health

OIE Aquatic Code
Chytridiomycosis
Ranaviral disease
2008



International
Transport of
Animals

Disinfection: Johnson et al. (2003), Bryan et al. (2009); Gold et al (2014)

\$75/
bottle



- Bleach $\geq 4\%$
- EtOH $\geq 70\%$
- Virkon $\geq 1\%$
- Nolvasan $>0.75\%$



Should we be concerned?



- Ranavirus are Multi-species Pathogens
- Amphibians with fast-developing larvae most susceptible
- Isolated populations (rare species) greatest threat
 - Interclass Transmission can occur
 - Community Composition matters
- Transmission is efficient – Multiple Routes
 - Environmental Persistence is long (1 – 3 mo)
- Anthropogenic Stressors and Pathogen Pollution contribute to Ranavirus Emergence

Ranaviruses represent a significant threat to the global biodiversity of ectothermic vertebrates

Gray and Miller (2013)

What can we do?

- Establish surveillance programs (broad then focus on hotspots, >40% infection)
- Identify mechanisms of emergence (natural, stressors, novel strains)
- Identify and implement intervention strategies (break host-pathogen cycle, reduce stressors, biosecurity precautions)



Global Ranavirus Consortium

<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/mgray/ranavirus/ranavirus.htm>



Symposia
Discussion Groups
Website
Reporting System
Outreach Resources
Springer eBook



The goal of the GRC is to facilitate communication and collaboration among scientists and veterinarians conducting research on ranaviruses and diagnosing cases of ranaviral disease

GRC@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU

Questions??



Photo:
N. Wheelwright

mgray11@utk.edu
865-974-2740