### **Accepted Manuscript**

Title: Cross-species infection of mice by rabbit hepatitis E virus

Authors: Yani Sun, Qizhong Lu, Baoyuan Liu, Yamin Sheng, Taofeng Du, Julian A. Hiscox, En-Min Zhou, Qin Zhao

PII: S0378-1135(18)30607-2

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vetmic.2018.09.015

Reference: VETMIC 8077

To appear in: *VETMIC* 

Received date: 24-5-2018 Revised date: 10-9-2018 Accepted date: 16-9-2018

Please cite this article as: Sun Y, Lu Q, Liu B, Sheng Y, Du T, Hiscox JA, Zhou E-Min, Zhao Q, Cross-species infection of mice by rabbit hepatitis E virus, *Veterinary Microbiology* (2018), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vetmic.2018.09.015

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### Cross-species infection of mice by rabbit hepatitis E virus

Yani Sun<sup>a,b</sup>, Qizhong Lu<sup>a,b</sup>, Baoyuan Liu<sup>a,b</sup>, Yamin Sheng<sup>a,b</sup>, Taofeng Du<sup>a,b</sup>, Julian A. Hiscox<sup>c</sup>, En-Min Zhou<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Qin Zhao<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

#### **Author affiliations:**

- <sup>a</sup> Department of Preventive Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Northwest A&F University
- <sup>b</sup> Scientific Observing and Experimental Station of Veterinary Pharmacology and Diagnostic Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, China
- <sup>c</sup> Department of Infection Biology, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
- \* Corresponding authors at: College of Veterinary Medicine, Northwest A&F University, No. 22 Xinong Road, Yangling, Shaanxi, 712100, China. *E-mail addresses:* zhouem@nwsuaf.edu.cn (E.-M. Zhou); qinzhao\_2004@ nwsuaf.edu.cn (Q. Zhao)

#### Highlights:

- 1. Rabbit HEV infected BALB/c mice by gavage and contacting infected mice routes.
- 2. No obviously clinical signs were observed from rabbit HEV infected mice.
- 3. Fecal virus shedding, viremia and seroconversion were detected from the infected mice.
- 4. Inflammation lesions in the liver were characterized in rabbit HEV infected mice.
- 5. The rabbit HEV infection of contact-exposured mice was milder than inoculated mice.

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