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West Nile virus infection in horses, Indian ocean

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Highlights

- Circulation of West Nile virus (WNV) in horses in the Southwest Indian ocean
- An overall seroprevalence of 27.4% was detected with the highest WNV antibody prevalence of 46.2% in Madagascar.
- Potential risk of infection for humans and animals

Abstract

The circulation of West Nile virus (WNV) in horses was investigated in the Southwest Indian ocean. In 2010, blood samples were collected from a total of 303 horses originating from Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion and the Seychelles and tested for WNV-specific antibodies. An overall seroprevalence of 27.39% was detected in the Indian Ocean with the highest WNV antibody prevalence of 46.22% (95% CI: [37.4-55.2%]) in Madagascar. The age and origin of the horses were found to be associated with the WNV infection risk. This paper presents the first seroprevalence study investigating WN fever in horses in the Southwest Indian Ocean

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